

Oral Questions

respect to their auto exports to Canada. I hope that within the next several weeks we will be in a position to announce what has transpired.

AUTO PACT PROVISIONS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for his answer but can he explain to the House the fairness of having two sets of rules, one for Canadian auto manufacturers and one for the offshore manufacturers? Is there not a great disparity there, and will he stand in his place and give us a commitment that the rules will be set for all auto makers as per the provisions of the Auto Pact?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Acting Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, it is clearly in the interests of those who are investing in Canada to achieve Auto Pact status because in doing so they open up the U.S. market. We are working with the automobile manufacturers and encouraging them in the expectation that Auto Pact status will be reached. However, that takes time, and I think the Hon. Member recognizes that.

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GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO FRANCE—REQUEST FOR EXPENDITURE GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIALS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to February in Paris and the Prime Minister's \$3,400 hotel room.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, no!

Mr. Waddell: The Government has guidelines for civil servants, MPs, cabinet Ministers, companies doing business in South Africa, indeed for just about everything. Given that, would it not be reasonable for the Prime Minister to set guidelines on extravagance for his travelling entourage?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there were some, I think, regrettable constructions placed on some accounts submitted. The fact is, for example, that in the case of Mila and myself, we had for our use one bedroom and one bathroom. Everything else assigned to us by the Government of France was used for working purposes involving visiting Heads of Government, public servants, representatives of the French Government, and security considerations. The Mulroneys used one bedroom and one bathroom and that was it. I do not think Canadians want anything less.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

HOTEL ROOM BILL

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the President—rather, to the Prime Minister. Is he denying that the room cost \$3,400, and can he tell us what you get for \$3,400? Do you get chocolates on the pillow, for example? Why \$3,400 for a hotel room?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, for that amount of money you get the NDP Member for Kenora—Rainy River down the hall.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: He was an official member of the delegation, in the same hotel, attending the same—

Some Hon. Members: On a *per diem*.

Mr. Mulroney: —as we did. We were assigned a suite of rooms by the Government of France. My wife and I occupied the two rooms I told you about. Everything else was used for other purposes, and I do not have the slightest intention of apologizing to you or anyone else because what we did was good effective work for Canada abroad, “we” being all members of the delegation.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for York South—Weston, one question.

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DISASTERS

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE ON ANNIVERSARY OF AIR-INDIA ACCIDENT

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and concerns the Air-India tragedy. While we appreciate the fact that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is travelling to Cork Ireland to participate in the memorial service, we are disappointed that the Government has refused to charter a boat to allow the families of the victims to travel from Cork to the actual crash site.

• (1200)

Can the Prime Minister explain this apparent lack of sensitivity? Will he make immediate arrangements to ensure that a boat is available in Cork on Monday to transport the families of the victims to the actual crash site to accommodate their emotional and religious needs?

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Hon. Member that my colleague, the Minister of State for External Affairs, who is presently on his way to the memorial ceremony, discussed it with me last night. He advised me that Canada and India had examined that possibility very carefully. We did look into it.