

Adjournment Debate

an-owned multinational companies; and wholly-owned Canadian companies.

In the first two groups, the disposition of funds rests largely in the U.S. to the extent that financial resources generated by U.S. branch plants cannot be regarded as always being available for use in Canada and in such activities as developing new markets, research and development, purchases of advanced equipment, or generally accommodating the Canadian operation to changing market conditions.

As the world car concept advances, rationalization on a world scale will affect various divisions of U.S. vehicle manufacturers. As an example, suspension components for the General Motors J-Car will be produced in only two GM plants in the world, one of which is located in Canada.

We recognize that a problem does exist with some U.S. auto parts manufacturers in Canada who have no Canadian domestic or export sales force and who carry out export functions through their U.S. head office. Indeed, there are successful Canadian-owned companies in the automotive sector which do not participate in the lucrative offshore markets.

Recently, a greater emphasis has been placed on investment in Canada by the department. A mission of Canadian automotive parts manufacturers visited Japan in March of this year to meet with Japanese companies interested in joint ventures or licensing agreements leading to production in Canada of automotive parts for Japanese vehicles. Comprising the mission were a number of Canadian subsidiaries of U.S. parents.

The mission was extremely useful from the point of view of interest generated and contact established, and negotiations are continuing.

I want to bring to the attention of the hon. member that in reply to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray) about the increased importation of Japanese cars into Canada and the possible request for an increase in quota was that better and more participation of Canadian industry—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hon. member's allotted time has expired.

EMPLOYMENT—INQUIRY RESPECTING INCREASE IN FUNDING
OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, on November 17, I asked a question of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) concerning the community development program and whether additional funding could be provided to this program. Indeed, some time early in the new year, additional funding was provided to this program, at least in my constituency.

● (2210)

The arguments I want to put before the minister tonight relate to how the program will be carried out this coming fall because there has been a wide variation in the amount of funding over the past three or four years. In the year 1980-81, under this program \$376,373 was provided to the constituency

of Algoma. When the Conservatives were in power in 1980, no funding was provided under the Canada Works program. In the year 1978-79, my constituency received \$1.5 million and in 1977-78, \$1.8 million.

This program of employment during the winter months when there are high seasonal lay-offs is very important. It does not so much affect the communities in my constituency with a large industry such as a steel mill, a pulp and paper mill or a uranium mine, but it does affect the dozens of smaller villages, hamlets and rural townships throughout the vast area, some 400 miles in the Algoma-Manitoulin area.

Many of these communities have high seasonal lay-offs and the people are unable to find other work. Some must apply for unemployment insurance benefits or welfare. This is certainly true in the 12 Indian bands in the constituency.

My request to the minister tonight is that adequate funding be provided in the upcoming year for the community development program. Indeed, I hope there will be increased funding and that it will be targeted to the high unemployment areas of the country. Last year funding was provided right across the country, \$100,000 to every constituency whether it was needed or not. I feel that the program operated in 1978-79 which was targeted to the high unemployment areas was much more useful and beneficial.

It is important to note that over the past four or five years of this program the department has developed an excellent staff of young people who are dedicated, helpful and imaginative. They have developed a lot of expertise at operating direct employment programs. These people are available. There is a certain amount of additional overhead by having capable, competent staff like that, but it really pays off in value for the dollar spent. Often we are just displacing dollars that would be spent on welfare or unemployment insurance. People want to see value for the money spent for the work that is carried out.

I hope the minister will be successful when he puts this program before cabinet and that cabinet will hear these representations and will provide adequate funding for the community development program in the coming winter months. I hope the application forms will soon be made available in order that they can be processed over the summer months so that the projects can be approved, started on time and carried out during the winter months, providing much-needed employment in many of the slow growth areas of our country, at the same time carrying out very worth-while community projects, such as community halls, fire halls, and any number of other worth-while community projects carried out under this program over the last several years.

Mr. Peter Stollery (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the hon. member in his question has acknowledged the extent of the response across the country to the Canada community development projects.