

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

ARCHAMBAULT—DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONDITIONS

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Solicitor General as well. In light of the recommendations made in that report which was tabled nine months ago, it seems that at the time we recognized that the conditions, particularly in the Laval institution, were abominable. Could the Solicitor General tell us if the recommendations contained in that report will be implemented soon and also tell us what has been done about this in the past nine months, particularly with regard to conditions prevailing in the Laval institution?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, the conditions will necessarily apply to the whole system. We must not begin singling out specific situations. I want to tell the hon. member that all the people in my department have worked very hard on this. I have received a preliminary report. Mr. Speaker, at the very beginning when I accepted this portfolio, I insisted that I should meet with the officials of the Canadian Penitentiary Service to assure myself that the recommendations of a subcommittee of a committee of the House be implemented as soon as possible. I am seeing to it that this is done and I want the hon. member to be sure of that.

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question. The Solicitor General is referring to the standardization of living conditions in penitentiaries throughout Canada. In that report, meetings with various provincial justice ministers were also mentioned. Could the Solicitor General say whether his predecessor had met the Quebec minister to deal with Quebec institutions as far as standardization is involved?

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me the opportunity to pinpoint one of the reasons why there may have seemed to be some delay in the implementation. I intend to meet personally my provincial counterparts in the near future, probably in the first week of March if I am not mistaken.

**Mr. La Salle:** A last supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Solicitor General says that he intends to meet the ministers in the near future. Could he explain why those meetings have not yet been held since the government was handed that report nine months ago?

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, I did not say that there was no meeting. I merely stated that, personally, I will meet those ministers in the near future.

[Mr. McGrath.]

● (1422)

[English]

## TRADE

DEFICIT IN AUTOMOTIVE TRADE WITH U.S.—INDUSTRY  
COMMITMENTS TO IMPROVE SITUATION

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In an incredible paper released by his department last week, the deficit in automotive trade between Canada and the United States is forecast to reach the alarming figure of \$2.5 billion annually by 1981. This represents a 250 per cent increase in the current annual deficit, and would mean the net loss—I put the figure conservatively—of at least 40,000 jobs which would be due to Canada under the Canada-U.S. automotive agreement. Can the minister tell us what commitments he has obtained from the industry to head off this deplorable situation?

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, General Motors has agreed to build one additional parts plant in Windsor. We are urging the company, and working with it to negotiate a second plant. Ford has agreed to modernize a plant it is operating in Windsor, and we are working with that company and urging it to build additional plants. I would like to point out to the hon. member that our export of automotive parts increased last year by 22 per cent; our export of automobiles increased last year by 25 per cent. If we can continue to do that, I think we will narrow the gap, rather than increase it.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, the minister knows as well as I do that in terms of the essence of the argument, the figures he has just given us are meaningless. In spite of the increase the minister is talking about, we had a \$1 billion deficit last year. Is the minister aware that the president of the Ford Motor Company said recently that the industry will be investing \$58 billion in North America in the next eight years, largely because of new requirements regarding energy and pollution? Is he aware that the minimum entitlement to Canada, at that level of investment, would be at least \$750 million a year, starting next year? If so, can he assure the House that we will get anywhere near that figure?

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House that we are doing our utmost to get Ford to build additional plants in Canada. We are in severe competition with the southern and northern United States—a bidding match as to who can provide them with the most facilities at the lowest cost to them.

● (1427)

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, let me remind the minister that the government of the United States does not have a treaty with the southern states; this is a treaty it has signed with Canada. Clause 1 of that treaty states that Canada and the United States are to share on a fair and equitable basis in the growth of the industry. I would, therefore, like to ask the