## Division

## Messrs:

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Humboldt) Laniel La Salle Leblanc (Laurier) LeBlanc (Rimouski) Legault

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Tolmie Trudeau

Turner (London East) Turner (Ottawa-Carleton)

Whelan Whiting Woolliams-151.

• (5:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion lost.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Now that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) is in the House, I wonder if we can obtain the unanimous consent of the House to enable the minister to make a brief statement on the result of his conversations with the General Motors Corporation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear. [The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel).]

Mr. Speaker: The unanimous consent of the House is required for the purpose of reverting to motions.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no agreement. Is the House ready for the question?

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I find that the amendment before the House is one of great importance to my constituents, even though I represent a relatively urban riding in Ontario. As hon, members know, the riding of Brant contains two of the largest farm implement manufacturing corporations in Canada, Massey-Ferguson and White Farm equipment. For the past two years both of these companies have been in a depressed condition, and the main reason that these industries have been depressed has been that western farmers, grain producers and wheat growers, have been unable to purchase farm machinery, mainly as a result of the policies of the government. I should like to suggest, in fact I urge, hon. members to consider that this amendment would create more cash for the western farmers and therefore dramatically demonstrates the relationship and the interdependence between western grain growers and the urban workers in eastern Canada.

## Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Blackburn: I would like to discuss for a couple of moments the very real problems in my city of Brantford. The North American Combine plant, when it was operating at peak, was employing between 1,300 and 1,400 workers on three shifts. At present there is one shift and about 200 workers in that huge, modern plant. To dramatize the situation even further, if one looks beside Massey-Ferguson and the North American Combine plant, one sees acres and acres of combines sitting there doing nothing, totally unproductive. They have been sitting there for two years, during which time the workers at the North American Combine plant have been on unemployment insurance and many of them, while waiting for unemployment insurance, have been forced to go on welfare. Some of those whose unemployment insurance benefits have run out are back on welfare. Brantford has become a depressed city to a large extent, mainly because of the government's economic policy in relation to the western farmers. White Farm Equipment, which at one time was the famous Cockshutt factory but is now an American corporation, has been in a depressed condition for two years as well. They have been in bad shape for a long time. There are men there who came back as veterans after the second world war who now have 22 and 23 years seniority, but who are unemployed. This is a disgrace to two major farm implement corporations, and I suggest once again that it is the result of the government's agricultural and economic policies in relation to the western

It makes very little difference whether the worker at the North American Combine plant is making 10 cents an hour, \$2.50 or \$4 an hour; the point is that there is no money in the west to buy anything from the North American Combine Plant. Very often our rural citizens are tempted to blame labour for raising the costs of farm