

Oral Questions

normally goes directly from the customer to the nearest transportation point. It does not go through the Post Office and there is no sorting involved. This is a service which has been in existence for years that permits clients who wish to enter into a contract with the Post Office to have their mail picked up at their place of business and be delivered directly to another point. We have been able to perform this service for a number of years, and we hope to continue performing it.

The consequence of the irresponsibility of the Leader of the Opposition and of some of his colleagues has probably made it impossible to continue the performance of this service.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Ouellet: Madam Speaker, the hon. member has asked me for my advice to settle the current dispute. The answer we can give to the public who are suffering from the strike is that there is a possibility to have a negotiated settlement between the parties involved. A mediator will be appointed and, hopefully, members of the opposition party will remove themselves from this conflict and not put their noses in it, allowing the parties to negotiate, rather than intervening very negatively in the way they have been doing thus far.

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● (1430)

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY**DEFICIT ON MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS—FUTURE OF BUDD COMPANY IN KITCHENER, ONT.**

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I would have asked a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, but I will ask it of the Minister of State for Trade. I think he would be interested in it. As he knows, we are suffering a considerable deficit on manufactured products. There are two situations currently being carried on in Canada which further erode our trade position.

First of all, will the minister look into the persistent rumour that Budd automotive of Kitchener will close, and that the frames it makes for mid-sized cars will be brought into Canada from a U.S. manufacturer? Will the minister bring to the attention of General Motors the fact that the trade balance on manufactured products is at an all-time high, in terms of a deficit to Canada, and that the auto pact requires that a fair share be manufactured in this country, and we will not accept the decision to close Budd?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (Trade)): Madam Speaker, since the domestic automobile industry comes under the jurisdiction of my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, I am not aware of the specific instance alleged by the hon. member. I will discuss that with the minister upon his return to the House. I do hope, though, that the hon. member has noticed, in the last couple of months, that a Canadian automobile company, General Motors, assisted by the Government of Canada, negotiated the largest transaction

in a foreign market for automobiles in the history of Canada. That was a \$100 million plus deal: a sale of 13,500 cars to Iraq.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, that information will be invaluable, I am sure, given the fact that all of the frames for all of the cars will be manufactured in the United States. That is really a silly answer.

CROSS-BORDER TRANSFER OF PRODUCTS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Now let me ask the minister a question in relation to yet another very difficult situation. Wabco, located in Stoney Creek, has been on strike for nine weeks. There have been no meetings. The parent company in the United States is filling every single order in Canada from its U.S. parent facility. Will the minister look into how it can be that companies can so easily transfer their products across the border, thus undermining the Canadian public, undermining the Canadian employees, and undermining Canada's economy at the same time?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (Trade)): Madam Speaker, I want to correct a statement that the hon. member just made. One of the reasons that Canada was able to obtain that contract with Iraq was the fact that we guaranteed that those cars would be manufactured and assembled here in Canada, and not in the United States. That is the reason we got a contract.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lumley: With respect to the second part of the hon. member's statement, I will confer with my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS**PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MAJOR GENERAL CHATICHAI CHOONHAVAN, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, THAILAND**

Madam Speaker: I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of Major General Chatichai Choonhavan, Minister of Industry for Thailand.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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POST OFFICE**POSTAL STRIKE—DURATION OF HARDSHIP**

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General, who is now getting briefed by the President of the Treasury Board on what the postal strike is all about.