

Inquiries of the Ministry

unemployed people in industry, as well as the minister's statement that the prices of Canadian cars would be reduced, can the minister assure the house that he has made firm requests to the car manufacturers that prices be reduced?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I think the car manufacturers are as conscious as anyone else of the desirability of reducing the sale price of cars to the lowest level possible with a view to stimulating sales.

Mr. Hales: Can the minister assure the house that it was part of the agreement that prices would be reduced?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure to which agreement the hon. member is referring. It is quite clearly understood by the motor car manufacturers that one of the principal objects of the automobile agreement and its concomitant arrangements is lower manufacturing costs and consequently lower manufacturers' sale prices of automobiles in Canada.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister, and I wish to put it in the form of a plea on behalf of those who are continually being laid off as a result of the auto pact signed with the United States. In view of the announcement yesterday that 300 more workers are being laid off by General Motors, 250 in Oshawa, 20 in Ste. Therese, 10 in Windsor and 20 in London, will he not agree now, in the interests of all of these people, to bring the auto pact before a standing committee of the house so we can find out why these people are being laid off and perhaps stop these lay-offs?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman quite unfairly and misleadingly, though he may not mean to be misleading, attributes all these lay-offs to the automotive agreement, and that is not the fact.

Mr. Starr: Let us find out the facts.

Mr. Pearson: My hon. friend says "Let us find out the facts". He has already made up his mind. He says these lay-offs are due to this pact, so what more does he hope to find?

Mr. Starr: Then prove you are right.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): May I ask a supplementary question of the Prime Minister. Will he explain to the house

[Mr. Hales.]

that part of his answer which he implies is not the fault of the auto pact?

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): May I ask a supplementary question. Can the Prime Minister inform the house how many of the models previously produced in Canada are now produced in the United States?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is asking for statistical information.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I know the Minister of Industry is anxious to answer questions. In view of the fact that this agreement was to bring about cheaper cars for Canadians, how does he explain the fact that motor cars manufactured in Canada are sold in the United States at prices competitive with the lower United States prices? Why do you not give the same right to Canadians?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

PROVISION OF TELEVISION SETS TO MEMBERS OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State related to the question she answered about television sets. Could the minister tell us whether television sets were supplied by the C.B.C. to the secretary of state and the prime minister of the previous government?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt that this question is in order.

IMMIGRATION

PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF APPEAL BOARD

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration) moved the third reading of Bill No. C-220, to make provision for appeals to an immigration appeal board in respect of certain matters relating to immigration.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to reiterate too much of what was said at earlier stages of the present bill. However, we cannot let the bill receive third reading without again expressing our protest against some of the thoroughly undesirable features which the minister insisted on retaining.