

Oral Questions

Secretary Shultz very late in March of this year the talks with respect to the auto pact are now back on the rails.

Mr. Stanfield: What rails?

Mr. Gillespie: I would expect that a further meeting will take place—

Mr. Stanfield: When?

Mr. Gillespie: —at least at the official level in the very near future.

Mr. Hees: Has the government undertaken a study recently of Canadian taxes and price differentials on automobiles and, if so, does the minister intend to table such study?

Mr. Gillespie: I know of no specific study in those terms but I do know, and I think hon. members know, that we are not satisfied with the differential and that we intend to see that the differential in wholesale prices between automobiles purchased in the two countries is narrowed.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY PRICE INCREASES IN 1974
MODELS—REDUCTION OF GAP BETWEEN PRICES IN
CANADA AND UNITED STATES

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether, in view of the fact the president of the Ford Motor company acknowledged yesterday that he did not know if the price differential between the two countries would be reduced by his proposed increases, he considers this to be a violation of the commitment he has received from that company that the next price increase would in fact take into account the differential that exists and aim to reduce it?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Without reading the transcript of the comments of the president of the Ford Motor Company I do not want to say any more than that perhaps some of his remarks about price levels in the United States were rather speculative. However, what is not speculative is the position of the government that we intend to hold, however difficult it may be, the company to its commitment to further narrow that differential.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for a last supplementary and then will see the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi.

Mr. Broadbent: In view of the fact that the announced increase of up to \$200 per car will enable the company in this year to maintain a profit rate in excess of 25 per cent on investment, would the minister take steps now to approach the company and urge them to reconsider completely their announced price increases?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to enter into that kind of negotiation at this time. I do recognize, as I think all members will, that during the period of the price freeze in Canada there has been a build-up of costs with respect to the manufacture of automobiles, and there will be additional cost in the 1974 model year with respect to emission and safety controls.

[Mr. Gillespie.]

[Translation]

BILINGUALISM

USE OF FEDERAL GRANTS FOR TEACHING OF SECOND
LANGUAGE—STATEMENT BY QUEBEC MINISTER OF
EDUCATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Secretary of State.

In light of the statement made by the Quebec Minister of Education, last June 8, cancelling previous directives setting higher priority for second language teaching, how do the federal government and the provinces supervise to make sure that the funds allotted by the federal government to the provinces are really used for second language teaching?

[English]

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, that is the subject of discussion now between myself and ministers of education across the country. I have had three meetings so far. We are concerned with developing a system of accountability which can respond totally and completely to the concerns expressed by the hon. member. These concerns have been expressed to me by other members of the House. I would point out, if I may, that under the terms of the previous agreement payments only go to the provinces in response to work actually taking place in the classroom.

[Translation]

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a supplementary question to the hon. Secretary of State and ask him whether he can assure the House that the funds voted by the federal parliament to promote bilingualism are really being used in every province for second language teaching?

[English]

Mr. Faulkner: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think I can give that assurance, but I would like to add that the provinces themselves are contributing substantially to the pursuit of the goals implicit in this program. It is not simply the federal government; it is both levels of government that are doing it and they are doing it in a greater and more generous measure than before.

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ENERGY

OIL AND GAS—REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF EXPLORATION
PERMIT REGULATIONS

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, since some ministers may be confused about who has authority, I should like to direct my question either to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development or to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, whichever one thinks he is in charge. In view of the concern about long-term energy reserves in Canada and the fact that Canada has large undiscovered energy reserves in frontier areas, will the minister please inform the House when the government will stop delaying and issue long-