

Oral Questions

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, once again the Hon. Member is casting aspersions and making insinuations about a Minister. I want to inform him and the House that the Minister is in the process of putting all the facts together and he will be making a statement to the House, either later today or tomorrow, which hopefully will clarify the issue.

Mr. Nunziata: The Minister should be here today to defend himself.

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE REFERRAL

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, we have documents which show that monthly stock portfolio statements were sent to the Minister's home. We know as well that the Minister's so-called blind trustee is his friend and fund raiser. We know this is another case of a Tory Minister showing contempt for the conflict of interest guidelines. The Minister's blind trust is an absolute sham.

Some Hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Nunziata: In view of the facts as we know them will the Deputy Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, refer this whole matter to the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure so we can conduct a full and complete investigation?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I just want to advise the Hon. Member and the House that the Minister will defend himself. He will make a statement. May I simply remind the Hon. Member that not too long ago we had similar aspersions and insinuations about the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport. They were somewhat less than in accordance with the facts. Perhaps the Hon. Member may want to reflect and wait until he hears what the Minister has to say.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—FUTURE OF AUTO PACT

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. How can she say that the Auto Pact is not on the table when we have seen the pressure applied by the Governor of Michigan? I now have a letter here from the Governor of Wisconsin making precisely the same points and stressing that the Auto Pact "leans heavily in favour of Canada and the U.S. must improve this imbalance in the free trade talks". Why is the Government trying to con the people of Canada?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I thought I had made it clear that the reason I can

say the Auto Pact is not on the table is because it is not on the table. The negotiators are meeting now and I am advised by them that the Auto Pact is not being discussed. The Auto Pact has not been discussed. As I said, we do not propose to put it on the table. If the Americans want to do so, we will look at their proposals. If they are good for employment, production and investment in Canada, we will look at them.

The only people who are trying to put the Auto Pact on the table are the opposition Members. They are putting thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in investment on the table with these red herring scare tactics.

Mr. Langdon: The Minister knows perfectly well that Mr. Merkin heads a working group on automotive products which is dealing with precisely this issue. A memo that reports his statements is bound to have much more truth in it than anything the Minister says.

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Langdon: I suggest that the Minister owes an explanation to workers right across this country, in Boisbriand, St. Catharines, Windsor—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member will put his question, please.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister give an explanation about why there is so much evidence emerging in the U.S. and Canada that the Auto Pact is being discussed and thousands of jobs are at definite risk?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I think I have answered that question. I can only point out that if the Americans wish to put forward any proposals detrimental to our automotive trade the Opposition is their best ally and friend in achieving that aim. I think I have made our position very clear. The Hon. Member refers to a working group on automotive trade. I can tell the House and the Hon. Member that was an information group to discuss how the trade worked now and it has not met since last November.

Mr. St. Germain: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody.

POSITION OF OPPOSITION

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission—Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, we have sat in this House and listened to the false—

Some Hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Lewis: You get a preamble.

Mr. St. Germain: —rhetoric of the Opposition. In view of the fact that the Minister has pointed out, as stated by Mr.