

Oral Questions

undertaken to provide for both training and on the job experience for young people, to meet what we all agree will be a very serious issue.

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AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Otto Jelinek (Halton): Madam Speaker, I am very happy to see that the Soviet delegation is here in Ottawa. Maybe they will learn something. They are watching democracy in action.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Ring the bells.

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member has been recognized to ask a question.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): That's just his preamble.

Mr. Jelinek: My question, Madam Speaker, is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As the Minister knows, the task force report on the auto industry will be presented to him tomorrow morning. The recommendations in the report are basically the same ones which I have been making in the House for some two years now, namely, providing incentives for offshore importers to invest in Canada and, second, to establish, perhaps by way of legislation, Canadian content regulations for any auto maker importing over 3,000 units per year into our country.

In short, the report generally recommends that the Canada-U.S. Auto Pact be expanded—

Madam Speaker: Order. How many times must I tell the Hon. Member that he has been recognized only to ask a question? If he does not proceed to ask his question right now, without the slightest preamble, without one word which is not a question, I will recognize another Hon. Member.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jelinek: Some democracy!

Mr. Blais: Give him a chance. He hasn't been in the House for three weeks.

Mr. Jelinek: I should say, "Democracy in action". But I will say that my question to the Minister is simply this: because the Government has systematically rejected our recommendations, I am now wondering whether we can take it for granted that the Minister will reject the recommendations by the task force, or whether he will change his mind and take action which will be beneficial to keeping and creating jobs in Canada in this very important sector of our industry.

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, first with respect to the Hon. Member's preamble, if he wanted to see democracy in action, he and his colleagues should have been here yesterday when we were prepared for a full day's debate.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Come to Saskatoon, to my riding, and say that.

Mr. Lumley: The leaders are alive over there, Madam Speaker.

Second, I have not yet seen the recommendations from the automotive task force. I look forward to seeing those recommendations in the task force report on which they worked many dedicated hours. I look forward to their report tomorrow.

EXPIRATION OF CANADA-JAPAN AGREEMENT

Mr. Otto Jelinek (Halton): Madam Speaker, since the Minister has—Madam Speaker, you are standing up before I have even said anything.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jelinek: Yesterday was closure, like in the Soviet Union.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jelinek: In view of the Minister's answer which, of course, comes as no surprise, and because the agreement with Japan on voluntary restraints of auto exports expires very shortly, in fact, at the end of June of this year, I want to ask the Minister what action he and his Government will take now—that means immediately—to support the auto industry in Canada and try to keep the jobs in that industry or possibly to create new jobs in that very important sector of our economy. What action will the Government take now?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of State for International Trade, who is responsible for the negotiations with the Japanese Government regarding quotas, will undoubtedly be very successful in his usual manner. However, I want to remind the Hon. Member and his colleagues that if it was not for my predecessor, the former Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and the action that he convinced the Government to take with respect to the Chrysler Corporation, Chrysler Canada, would not be as successful as it is today, protecting 11,000 jobs right across the country.