

As far as that particular deal is concerned, my friend should stop being so offensive in his innuendoes and implications. If he has evidence of leaks from Petro-Canada, let him state the facts and they will be investigated by the proper authorities. If he has evidence of leaks from Petrofina, then he should bring them to the attention of the securities commission concerned, and I am sure they will want to investigate them. That is the rule of the game, that is the law in this country. Once more, Madam Speaker, as far as this particular deal is concerned, I think Canadians support it and certainly the government does.

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● (1125)

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

APPLICATION OF REBATE PROGRAM FOR BENEFIT OF CANADIAN CONSUMERS

Mr. Bob Rae (Broadview-Greenwood): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the piano player my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It concerns the rebate program which is currently being carried on by General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler in the United States. Rebates of up to \$1,800 are being offered on cars, many of which are produced in Canada. The president of Chrysler, Mr. Iacocca, known as the Ayatollah Iacocca, is reported as making a remark to the effect that March will be "a great month for car buyers. We're really going to hype the market." I should like to ask the minister why are GM, Chrysler and Ford not going to be "hying" the market in Canada, particularly in view of the fact that just a week ago the minister made a deal with Chrysler. Can he not see that the benefits of this kind of arrangement should go to the consumers of Canada as well as those in the United States?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, I will seek further information about the way this rebate program is being applied. When I looked into similar matters in the past I found that similar or equivalent concessions were being offered in Canada but in a different form than those in the United States. I will check to see if this is the case in this instance.

It is interesting to note with respect to the announcement made about Chrysler, that the United Auto Workers issued a statement in which they endorsed the new operating plan proposed to the federal government by Chrysler Canada and agreed to by us last week. I think it is very important to recognize in this House that the workers, those whose jobs are most fully involved, support the agreement we announced last week.

Mr. Rae: Madam Speaker, that has nothing to do with the rebate program. I asked a very specific question with respect to rebates. Rebates have been going on for some time, and the minister comes to this House and says he will look into the matter. By the time he finishes looking into the matter the

rebate program will be over. Rebates are only planned for the months of March and April.

INVESTMENT BY AUTOMOBILE COMPANIES IN CANADA

Mr. Bob Rae (Broadview-Greenwood): My supplementary question, Madam Speaker, is this: since the minister took over the portfolio of industry, trade and commerce and responsibility for the riding of Windsor West, he has promised the renegotiation of the Auto Pact, on which nothing has happened and he has promised other initiatives with the Japanese, and apparently nothing has happened on those. What exactly is he doing to ensure that Canadians will have a fair share of the new investment that will take place by GM and Ford in the years ahead? Can he give us a guarantee that we will have investment in Canada equivalent to our market share and that the marketing practices of the auto companies will be the same in Canada as they are in the United States, since they are getting such great benefits from the government and the taxpayers of Canada?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, my hon. friend should spend less time worrying about playing the piano and more time concentrating on the information provided to this House and the country about our efforts in the areas about which we are talking. We did begin with the previous United States government, as we promised, formal consultations on the operations of the Auto Pact. These discussions have continued and we will be pressing them forward with the new administration. As a result of our discussions with Japan, we have had responses from the Japanese industry in terms of major buying missions as well as the response from the Japanese government that it would be encouraging Japanese industry to respond positively to the type of action we want from the industry in terms of greater Canadian content here.

In our discussions with Canadian-based industry and through formal action we have taken steps which will lead, in the case of Ford, to the restoration of 1,300 jobs in the Oakville plant and the investment that is necessary there to have assembled in the Oakville plant a new front wheel drive fuel-efficient car. We have commitments by way of information from General Motors—

● (1130)

Madam Speaker: Order. Ministers, too, should try to keep their answers brief.

Mr. Rae: Madam Speaker, the minister said he would make a statement in the House on Chrysler. He has not done that. He said he would make a statement in the House on Massey-Ferguson. He has not done that. He holds press conferences. He is the minister for press conferences. He is not a minister responsible to this House telling the House what is going on here.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!