

*Oral Questions***AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY****IMPORTS OF JAPANESE MANUFACTURED CARS**

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. On March 31 of last year the arrangements Canada had for restraining imports of Japanese and Korean cars into Canada expired. More than a year has gone by and the Government still has not completed negotiations for new arrangements. I would like an explanation for this from the Minister.

● (1430)

Has the Government abandoned the policy of restraining imports of Japanese and Korean cars into Canada? If not, why has so much time gone by without any new arrangements which are important for the preservation of jobs and production in the Canadian automotive industry?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, there is no reason for any change in the policy or approach at the moment. I have had no representations that there should be any change in that direction. If the hon. gentleman is concerned that there may be dangers here, I will undertake to look into them.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I understand that offshore cars, cars imported from abroad, now take up some 35 per cent of new car registrations in Canada. These are mostly from Japan and Korea.

Over a year ago the Hon. Member for Langelier, when he was the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, said that the Government would soon create a national automotive strategy. Last September his successor, the current Minister, pledged that there would also be a national automotive strategy from the Government. Nothing has happened so far.

Has the Government abandoned this commitment, as it has so many others? Will it have a strategy? If not, what explanation can it give for abandoning this pledge, a pledge which if carried out would be important in preserving tens of thousands of jobs in the Canadian automotive sector?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Regional Industrial Expansion is not here today. That is the Minister to whom the hon. gentleman is referring. I suggest that he hold his indignation and perhaps splutter later in the week when the Minister returns.

TRADE**CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—EFFECT ON GRAPE PRODUCERS**

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. He will likely recall that during the last election campaign on the Prime Minister's tour through the Niagara Peninsula the Prime Minister promised the grape and wine producers there that the Government would keep farmers on the land, that the Government would promote Canadian wines, and adopt other protective measures because it would be "far less costly to the public treasury than to allow this vital Niagara industry to literally wither on the vine."

My question to the Deputy Prime Minister is this. Why did the Prime Minister break his promise to the grape producers of the Niagara Peninsula when he signed a trade deal which essentially has devastated this industry?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that this kind of silly and partisan question is asked in the House of Commons.

Mr. Broadbent: He's quoting the Prime Minister.

Mr. Crosbie: The Prime Minister has not broken any commitments or promises to the grape growers of the Niagara Peninsula, or any other peninsula.

The grape growers of Canada are in a difficult position for several reasons. The first is because certain practices adopted by the provinces were contrary to the GATT, and had been contrary to the GATT for many years. A GATT panel report came in to this effect some months ago, which has to be observed if we believe in the GATT system. The members of the New Democratic Party have told Canada—the world—that they are great believers in the GATT system. That is the basic reason why the grape industry is having some difficulty.

In addition, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement also has an effect on the grape industry that has to be dealt with.

Third, the grape growers of the country were in some difficulty anyway because of an over-production of the wrong kind of grapes.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: All of those problems are being dealt with. The Minister of Agriculture has a report recommending certain steps be taken for adjustment measures to help the grape industry. That will be done.

The Prime Minister is not going back and has not gone back on any commitments made to grape growers in Canada.

REQUEST FOR COMPENSATION PACKAGE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, what has become perfectly clear in that response is that the