

Oral Questions

all done under the direction of the provincial authorities. I think, with respect and with the sympathy that I share for her plight, the hon. member should direct his attention to the government responsible for the decision and for the prosecution.

Mr. Nielsen: Write him a letter.

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AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY**IMPORTATION OF PARTS MANUFACTURED IN JAPAN**

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for International Trade. It relates to ongoing negotiations with the Japanese vis-à-vis the automobile market. I understand the minister's concern when these questions are raised on the floor of the House because he may feel that they prejudice negotiations. However, may I ask him, not with respect to the completed new vehicles but with respect to automotive parts, not component parts but the after market or replacement parts, has that been a subject matter for negotiation with the Japanese, and could the minister indicate to the House his position with respect to that very significant market?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (International Trade)): Yes, Madam Speaker, that subject has been a part of the discussion with my counterpart in Japan. I indicated to him that we were not satisfied with the Canadian share of the parts market retained for Japanese automobiles. As has been indicated, there has been representation to the Japanese automobile manufacturers on our behalf to source more parts from Canada. This was also the subject of discussions at the Japan-Canada businessmen's conference which took place in Sapporo last week.

Mr. Jarvis: Madam Speaker, I hope the minister will be in a position to report some success with respect to that part of the market.

LEGALITY OF EXCLUSIONARY CONTRACTS

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): The other part which has some significance is access for replacement parts into agencies that sell Japanese cars in Canada. Those agencies have contracts with the Japanese manufacturers which prohibit or inhibit access to that market by Canadian manufacturers. First, has that been raised with the minister's counterpart in Japan and, second, has the minister sought advice from law officers of the Crown as to legality of those contracts that absolutely prohibit a Canadian manufacturer from having any access to that very significant market?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for bringing this matter to my attention. That is the first time that anyone, even domestically, has brought this matter to the government's attention. Therefore it was not a point of discussion with the

Japanese authorities. One other point comes to mind, Madam Speaker. I think that if the hon. member will check with the president of the auto parts manufacturers he will find that a couple of the Japanese automobile manufacturers have recently submitted lists to him and to the parts industry in Canada for submissions and possible sourcing of increased Canadian content.

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SMALL BUSINESS**REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE**

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for betraying the small business community of Canada yesterday. In early 1980, when the small business community was obviously entering financial difficulties, the minister responsible decided to solve their problems or assist them by marching off on a quick study. That quick study took nearly two years and cost the taxpayers of Canada \$1,200,000. After waiting two years for the result, the report that was released yesterday suggested that another year of study is in order—no action, no recommendations. Will the minister please stand in the House today and explain to the small business community of Canada what he plans to do immediately to assist them and to encourage them?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, once again, I am truly amazed at the hon. member for Kamloops-Shuswap. First of all, the facts he mentioned here in the House are not accurate. I am not the minister who launched the study on small business financing. The hon. member himself said, in fact, that the study was launched under the previous government in 1980. Madam Speaker, he is surprised that a study of this magnitude should be published without conclusions or recommendations. I suppose the hon. member would have preferred that I, and with me the Government of Canada, should take the word of a small group of academics and experts on the small business sector, without consulting small business itself. Madam Speaker, I feel that comments of this kind are unworthy of a member of this House who is calling for consultation with the people.

[*English*]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, I do realize that I made an error. The minister has corrected me. It actually took three years to conduct this study, and still no action. The minister suggests that he is interested in receiving input from the business community of Canada, yet he suggests that he assemble a consultative committee. To consult about what, I would like to ask him? If he wants to