

received such consideration in 1965 and 1966. The report states that this manufacturer is in debt to the crown for customs duties estimated at \$2.4 million.

I ask the minister why no action has been taken. What action does the government now intend to take? Is the minister aware that the Auditor General stated that the procedures followed are "not adequate to protect the revenues properly accruing to the crown"?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): Of course I have looked at the Auditor General's report. I have asked for a thorough investigation and comments on the report as submitted by the Auditor General. I believe these would probably be too lengthy to read on orders of the day when I have received them. I suggest, therefore, to my right hon. friend that if he will put a question on the order paper I will answer it as soon as possible with the lengthy explanation.

Mr. Diefenbaker: My experience with the C.B.C., Mr. Speaker, has not been that questions get answered. However, I ask the minister this. How does he justify the delay of over a year when he told parliament the matter was being looked into in view of the general statement made by the Auditor General indicating a gross neglect of duty on his part as minister?

Mr. Benson: The comments of the Auditor General do not indicate any neglect of duty on anybody's part in this particular matter. Information which was not available at the time the Auditor General submitted his report is now available. I will be pleased to supply the information to my right hon. friend as soon as I have obtained it in suitable form from my department.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): May I ask a supplementary question of the right hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the lack of time on orders of the day to get answers to questions regarding the auto pact, will the Prime Minister not agree to submit the auto pact to the scrutiny of a standing committee of the house so that all information in respect of this pact can be obtained?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I will be glad to look into that matter. I cannot answer it definitely at the present time. We have to get through some important legislation before this house prorogues. Whether there will be an opportunity to discuss this pact I do not know, but there certainly will be an opportunity when we discuss the estimates in the resumed session.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I feel this matter is of great urgency at this time when thousands of Canadians are being laid off. I think we should find sufficient time to look into this situation, in view of the fact that we are looking into everything else through royal commissions and standing committees.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept the suggestion that this situation arises out of the operation of the auto pact. My hon. friend probably is aware of what is going on in Washington, where attacks are being made on that government because this particular agreement is said to be too favourable to Canada.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, is the Prime Minister aware that within a matter of just a few weeks ago Dafew Metal Stampings Limited of Scarboro has gone out of business as a result of the auto pact, and that 82 employees have lost their jobs permanently?

Mr. Pearson: I am also aware that many thousands of jobs have been given to Canadians as a result of this agreement.

Mr. Starr: Where; in Windsor?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. The right hon. Leader of the Opposition quite rightly asked the Minister of National Revenue whether the Studebaker Company had paid its bill of \$2.4 million. Surely the minister must be aware whether or not they have paid this bill. All this house wants to know is whether the bill has been paid; yes or no.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a question of privilege. The hon. member knows the rule.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE INTERVIEWS WITH PRESIDENTS OF STUDENT ORGANIZATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Solicitor General. I should like to ask him whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made by the president of the Canadian Union of Students to the effect that over the past 15 years successive presidents of that organization have been interviewed by