

Questions

in this day of discussion of economic problems between regions and between countries, has a very special application.

If, after two years of study, the minister had been able to announce that the government had come to the conclusion that the main recommendations of the Bladen commission with regard to integration had been adopted, then he would really be offering something of a substantial character toward the improvement of this industry and guaranteeing further employment. However, the minister has not done that. We can only presume that if and when he brings down the budget he, unlike his predecessor who skipped over the Bladen report twice, will at least give more than passing notice to the very important recommendations made by Professor Bladen with regard to an industry so vital not only to the community from which I come but to many other communities in Canada, and which is a source of so much employment.

It would have been extremely helpful if the minister could have said that not only was he now in a position to take some definite steps with regard to automobile engines and automatic transmissions but that the government too, recognizing that production in this particular industry was essential to the economy of the country, was going to take some action with regard to the recommendation made unanimously by the special mission to Europe of the productivity council in the matter of labour-management-government co-operation. The minister did not make reference to the desirability of action in this regard, with a view to improving the conditions which in turn will lead to improved production and improved prosperity for the automobile industry itself.

However, the minister has made a step. We shall examine these two announcements with the greatest care, hoping they will have the effect which the minister indicates namely by improving the situation so far as the parts industry is concerned and through its effect on the automobile industry. For what the minister has done, we thank him. For what he has not done we shall continue to prod him.

(Translation):

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, since we have had no opportunity to consider the order in council tabled in this house and since the Minister of Finance (Mr. Nowlan), like other great men, talks quite fast, we shall refrain from making any lengthy remarks on this proposal.

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However, we would like to point out that this is probably a beginning and that we must consider that in many fields, like the auto industry, for instance, Canada should be in a position to exercise control over production of its own requirements. The province of Quebec, among others, has a wealth of minerals and can supply raw materials. In my opinion, Canadian engineers have the required qualifications to launch an automobile industry in Canada.

There has been a step made in that direction today, and we hope that the government will continue in this way.

Such a project would contribute to a better balance in our international trade, but from the point of view of creating employment, I do not believe the project would have any value as a comprehensive solution to unemployment. A thought occurred to me that if everyone put his shoulder to the wheel in order to develop our primary and secondary industries and our manufacturing industry, the whole country would benefit.

We do not want to make any further remarks until we have examined this new proposal in more detail.

(Text):

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have been asked to say a word on behalf of this party on the announcement just made. There would be no purpose in repeating what has already been said. Before making any direct statement on the two propositions put to us by the minister, we should like to study them much more carefully. I express on behalf of our party our regret that these basic and important Canadian problems are dealt with in this piecemeal way instead of dealing with an industry as important as the automobile industry in an over-all way, planning for its future and for its contribution to a healthy Canadian economy.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

*CANADIAN CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Question No. 62—**Mr. Mather:**

1. Pursuant to the National Centennial Act, has a national centennial administration been appointed, and, if so, upon what date?
2. What is the name and address of the commissioner, the deputy commissioner, and each of the directors?
3. If the said administration has not been appointed, (a) what is the reason therefor, and (b) when can we expect such appointment to take place?
4. In the absence of such an administration, what steps are being taken to meet the prevailing lack of centennial organization at the provincial and municipal levels?