

Canada—U.S. Automotive Agreement

Mr. Nesbitt: Nobody is suggesting that.

Mr. Drury: United States manufacturers do not want to buy from us, or from outside their own manufacturing facilities, articles that they manufacture themselves. That is the situation here. Vertical integration has taken place in the United States to such a degree that components are manufactured by the motor car manufacturers themselves. They do not want to buy components outside.

It has been suggested to Canadian component manufacturers that they should expect this. It has been suggested that they should abandon the manufacture of those kinds of articles not wanted and look to other fields. In this process of looking about for other fields and establishing the manufacture of different items, the automobile industry has every assistance—

Mr. Nesbitt: The minister and I are thinking of different sets of circumstances. I was referring only to a situation where the automobile manufacturer requires an integral part of a car, which I shall call X and which has to meet certain specifications, that can be produced either by a wholly-owned subsidiary or by an independent firm. In this case the independent firms are not permitted even to tender on the specifications required. The minister and I are thinking of different things. However, if the minister has used his good offices in this instance I hope he will continue to do so.

[Translation]

Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières): With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the hon. minister.

I listened very carefully to the objections raised by several members, to the effect that the house was not consulted beforehand about this agreement, that there was no committee set up.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Trois-Rivières is apparently rising to make a speech.

Mr. Mongrain: I apologize. I am just explaining my question to the minister; otherwise he may not understand my point.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I pointed out to the house when the Minister of Industry rose to speak that he would close the debate.

[Mr. Drury.]

● (2:40 p.m.)

Mr. Mongrain: I wish to put a question to the minister. I am not trying to raise an argument. I will make my intervention as short as possible. Would the minister consider setting up a committee to study amendments to this agreement between now and the end of the argument so that the house may be able to make some suggestions before it is renewed?

Mr. Drury: The principal responsibility for the administration of this agreement rests with the Department of Industry. There are a great many occasions for example, when the estimates of the Department of Industry are before one or other of the standing committees, when this matter can be raised. I would hope, of course, to have the views of hon. members on modifications to this agreement at the time of the review which is specified in the agreement and I will certainly give consideration to the best possible means of seeking the views of members of the house at the time of the contemplated review.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: On division.

Motion agreed to on division.

BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENTS ACT

PROVISION FOR PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS BY CANADA

Hon. C. M. Drury (for the Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee to consider Bill No. C-144, to amend the Bretton Woods Agreements Act.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Rinfret in the chair.

On clause 1—*Payment of subscriptions out of C.R. fund.*

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Chairman, I do not have any comments to make.

This bill has been fully considered in committee; experts of the Department of Finance and the Bank of Canada, and interested members participated very conscientiously to get information. Now, the bill was agreed to without amendment by the committee on finance, trade and economic affairs.