

months. If the Minister wants to do a year-over-year comparison he also knows that his agreement will permit them to export year-over-year many thousands more in the coming year compared with last year. I would like him to deny that.

Will he confirm that he has just agreed with the Japanese that they can have guaranteed access to 22 per cent of the Canadian market and that he has not obtained what the Americans obtained, a guarantee for production in Canada? Did the Minister not go to the Japanese and say to them, "If you want access to the Canadian market, that is fine; but if you are to sell to Canadians, you have to produce jobs for Canadians just like you do in the United States"?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, considering the home town and the city the Hon. Member represents, I would have thought that he would have a little better idea of trends in the automobile industry than he does. He referred to trends. If he wants to refer to the trends he will find that imports and shipment of cars in the first half of the year have always been greater than in the last half of the year. He should take his time to check on that and ask me on another day, if he wants.

Let me next say that he is applying some sort of new math of which we have not heard yet, when he tries to say that the agreement we entered into would mean more cars coming in during the year. We have made an agreement for the six-month period which is statistically for 11,000 less than for the same six-month period last year, the time of year that has always been the heaviest for shipments. Let him put that in his pipe and smoke it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Regan: Let me also say to the Hon. Member that this is an interim agreement. We wanted an interim agreement because the former agreement had expired on December 31. We are carrying on discussions with the Japanese in relation to industrial co-operation. We are most anxious to try to arrange to have a greater amount of manufacturing in the country. Let me point out that Toyota has already agreed to a wheel factory in B.C.—

● (1430)

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Regan:—but we are seeking much more.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, it will not be the first time that Liberals have applauded ignorance.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: There are 14,000 auto workers on lay-off in Windsor, in Oakville, in Oshawa, in Toronto and in Quebec.

Oral Questions

They will not be amused by what the Minister has just agreed to in Japan.

PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, why was it that the Americans were able to get production agreements in the past for cars, production agreements in the past for trucks, and as recently as yesterday, and I repeat, just one firm alone, Toyota, has agreed to produce, in a joint venture with General Motors, 12,000 additional jobs, while the Minister goes to Tokyo and for all his talk comes back with zip all for Canadian workers?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, as I have said to the Hon. Member, we already have an agreement with the Japanese to establish a wheel factory in British Columbia. We do not consider that anything other than a beginning.

There is no question but that all Canadians must place a high priority on working out areas of industrial co-operation with the Japanese because they have shown themselves to be pretty successful in the automobile market. There is no question that the United States, with a market ten times as large as the Canadian market, has been able thus far with its muscle to achieve some movement, but not in relation to numbers—if you like to compare the numbers going into the American market.

Let me say in relation to the car workers who are laid off in this country that that they would be far more satisfied with the concerned effort I am making to bring down the number of cars imported than they are with the empty rhetoric which the Hon. Member is using.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PETRO-CANADA

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH ON ENERGY POLICY

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Yesterday in a speech in Toronto the Chairman of Petro-Canada recommended that the Government tear up its energy policy and move to world prices for crude oil. Given that Petro-Canada is a multi-billion dollar window on the industry as well as an instrument of public policy for the Government, can the Minister indicate whether the Chairman of Petro-Canada cleared his speech with the Government prior to giving it? If not, could the Minister tell the House what purpose was served by this speech since the Chairman of Petro-Canada surely could pick up the phone and pass on his views to the Government?

Was the Chairman of Petro-Canada flying a trial balloon for the Government or was he trying to initiate a change in public opinion so that the Government could abandon its