

MICHELIN TIRE COMPANY—POSSIBLE EXEMPTION FROM
CUSTOMS DUTIES ON CERTAIN IMPORTS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance on the Michelin question. For about a week I have tried to learn from the minister when the commitment made by the government to the Michelin Tire Company to give them tariff-free access to the Canadian market would come into effect. He has not answered the question clearly and he said he would look into it. Can he now inform the House when duty-free entry to the Canadian market will be granted to the Michelin company?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is talking about remission, I told him that no remission or relief has actually been granted to the Michelin company, nor, to the best of my knowledge, has any decision been taken as to when or in what form such supplementary relief would be given.

Mr. Broadbent: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since I have a letter from the former Minister of Finance dated last June which states categorically that such concession was being granted to Michelin for such entry into the Canadian market, can the minister inform the House now as to what happened to that decision? Was it revoked? Was I misinformed at the time? What has taken place?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I will check the correspondence against my answer, and if the hon. member deserves further clarification I will give it to him.

MICHELIN TIRE COMPANY—DEPENDENCE OF
EXPANSION ON REMISSION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES ON
CERTAIN IMPORTS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Is the decision of the Michelin company to proceed with expansion dependent upon such a remission being actually granted?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): No, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby for one last supplementary on this subject. I think all hon. members will want to consider the fact that we are fast reaching the end of the question period and we have not made much progress because of the length of questions, the length of answers and the number of supplementaries.

MICHELIN TIRE COMPANY—CONSULTATION WITH OTHER
FIRMS IN INDUSTRY BEFORE MAKING GRANT

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Since millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money have been allocated to the Miche-

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lin company in order to begin expanding the car tire market in Canada, and since the factories of existing firms in this country are already operating below capacity, did the minister's department consult with the other firms in that industry and did they agree to the notion that another firm should be tax supported and brought into the economy to produce tires?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the entire matter was discussed yesterday in committee with the deputy minister and the official responsible for the grants.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

ST. JUST DE BRETENIÈRES SAWMILL FIRE—LOSS OF 250
JOBS—DISCUSSION RESPECTING ASSISTANCE IN
RECONSTRUCTION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Considering that last week an important sawmill was completely destroyed by a fire which caused damages of more than \$2 million and since 250 workers thus lost their jobs, could the minister tell the House whether discussions have been or are being held with the heads of this company with a view to rebuilding the mill?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I could not say, Mr. Speaker. If company officials want assistance, they know they must contact the department. If this took place in the Quebec City area, we have offices there. I am not personally aware of this situation, but I will endeavour to find out whether there have been any meetings.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I should like to put a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

In order to hasten things, let me say that this sawmill is in St. Just de Bretenièrès, in the riding of Bellechasse—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Vegreville.

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INDUSTRY

VERSATILE MANUFACTURING LIMITED—PROPOSED
EXPANSION IN UNITED STATES RATHER THAN
CANADA—DISCUSSIONS WITH COMPANY OFFICIALS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce arising out of the questions I asked him last week respecting Versatile Manufacturing. Since the president of Versatile has revealed that officials of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce have not consulted and held discussions with officials of Versatile regarding the company's expansion in the United States, would the minister now take steps to initiate discussions