

Oral Questions

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Make your day—it would be an improvement on anything we see across the way now.

In all seriousness, and coming back to the point, the Government obviously wants to come forward with a comprehensive plan. Part of that plan is to look at the matter of agriculture, which we will be doing shortly.

* * *

● (1440)

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—EFFECT OF TARIFF REDUCTIONS ON AUTO PACT

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade. It arises out of yesterday's debate on free trade. In the debate the Minister confirmed that it was the Government's intention to reduce tariffs to zero on Canada-U.S. trade over a period of 10 years to 15 years. Can the Minister say what will be left of the Canada-U.S. auto agreement and its provisions which provide for production in Canada, if tariffs on automobiles are reduced to zero over the course of the next 10 years?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I have made it clear in the House that the Auto Pact is not on the table. Again, one more time, the NDP is trying to do Peter Murphy's job for him, trying to drag the Auto Pact on to the table. May I remind the Hon. Member that tariffs have been steadily reduced within the framework of the Auto Pact over the last 22 years? As I said yesterday in debate, tariffs have come down markedly over the last few years, and the Auto Pact has still generated a great deal of production and jobs for Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: It does not matter whether or not the Auto Pact is on the table, because the Government, in the free trade talks, is pulling the rug out from under the Auto Pact in that it intends to reduce the tariffs to zero.

INCENTIVE FOR FOREIGN AUTOMOBILE PRODUCERS

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister. What incentive do foreign automobile producers have to abide by the provisions of the auto agreement and to ensure a substantial proportion of Canadian content in production in Canada, if there will be no tariff barriers between the two countries because the Government is reducing automobile tariffs to zero and leaving no incentive for companies to abide by the Auto Pact?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): I am really surprised, Mr. Speaker, by the insensitivity of that question. The incentive which will exist for the automobile industry is secure and enhanced access to the wealthy, rich North American market.

[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS

REQUEST THAT PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT WITH PERSONS SUFFERING EXPROPRIATION AT MIRABEL BE RESPECTED

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil—Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works who is responsible for the Canada Lands Corporation in Mirabel. The expropriated owners and occupying tenants in Mirabel are very concerned following the Public Works officials, visit to Mirabel about rumors that the latter would review the draft agreement signed in March 1985 by the former Minister, the Hon. Member for Joliette. Can the Minister assure my electors that the draft agreement signed by the former Minister on behalf of the Government will be honoured to the letter and that the estimates earmarked for a new agricultural impetus will not be slashed in order that the last group of former expropriated owners and tenants will be dealt with as the first one was?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, first I should like to point out that business is going on as usual. I should like to say to the Hon. Member for Argenteuil—Papineau that there is no way that the draft agreement signed by the Mirabel expropriated owners and the Department of Public Works in March 1985 could be changed. Since 1984, that is within a short two and a half years, this Government has signed 1,100 purchase bids representing 80 per cent of the whole operation. We expect that this operation will be completed before the end of this year.

* * *

[English]

AIRPORTS

FIRE-FIGHTING SERVICES

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, this penny wise and pound foolish Government has ordered Transport Canada to take the unprecedented move of lowering the safety standards for fire-fighters at Canadian airports to save \$1.5 million. There will be no overtime or no replacement of anyone who is sick for fire-fighters at Canadian airports. Does the Minister of Transport think it is worth it to smudge our superior safety record at Canadian airports, all for the sake of \$1.5 million, to violate our own safety standards, and to threaten the safety of the travelling public in Canada?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): I certainly do not want the Hon. Member to have an attack of anything, Mr. Speaker. There were 657 fire-fighters or persons in the CFR service in Canada six months ago. There are 657 there now, the same number as before. Some have been relocated in areas where they were needed. There has been no reduction in the numbers.