

Oral Questions

in general and in particular they do not trust the Government to negotiate with the United States.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members know that argumentative and pejorative questions invite long and argumentative and pejorative answers. I would ask the Hon. Member to put his question, build his preface on facts and stay as far away as he can from pejorative comments.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, considering that the Minister either misstated reality completely or revealed a scandalous ignorance for a Minister conducting international trade when she said that for the past 25 years there have been no tariffs on automobiles—

Miss Carney: Effective tariffs.

Mr. Broadbent: The Minister said that there have been no tariffs for the past 25 years. Will she clarify that and admit she was wrong? Will she say that the Auto Pact requires that unless certain investment requirements are made in Canada, the automotive companies do in fact have to pay duty related to those tariffs and that is what the Auto Pact is all about? Will she admit that she was wrong right now?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): No, Mr. Speaker, I do not admit that I am wrong. I said that automotive trade under the Auto Pact right now operates tariff-free. The Hon. Member is referring to the fact that a nominal tariff, the most-favoured-nation tariff, does kick in under the Auto Pact if the safeguards are not met. I can only repeat that the safeguards have been met for years. If we ever operated at that level, we would be in deep trouble.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO U.S. OFFICIAL

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons the safeguards have been met for years and why there are jobs in Quebec and Ontario and related jobs elsewhere is that we have a duty and a tariff structure as a carrot or a stick. The Government should understand that and keep those duties in place.

A key American negotiator, not just anyone, has said categorically that the Canadian Government has agreed to drop tariffs and, second, that the Canadian Government has agreed to get other concessions from other provinces, and this is of particular interest to the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Is the Minister now saying that Mr. Merkin is lying, or is the Government of Canada misleading the people of Canada once again?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is talking about a memo allegedly written by an American, dealing with Americans. I suggest that he ask that question of the Americans.

I can only say that when I was in Washington on my last trip I met with Mr. Yeutter, the U.S. trade representative, and we agreed that over the course of the summer there would be

garbled press reports, there would be leaked memos, there would be all sorts of garbled information, and we both agreed we would not comment on such misinformation as the Hon. Member has presented in this House.

• (1430)

Mr. Broadbent: If I were an American Senator I would go to an American for the answer. Just for once I thought I could go to a Canadian Minister and get the truth.

[Translation]

AUTO PACT—REQUEST FOR GUARANTEES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Considering that a good many jobs in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario would be affected by Government decisions concerning the Auto Pact, can the Minister assure Canadians, Quebecers and Ontarians particularly, that the Government has not decided to abolish tariffs in the automotive sector?

[English]

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is simply restating his question. My answer is the same. There are no effective tariffs on auto trade as it is now. If we ever fell to the level of the safeguards where you do kick in a nominal tariff we would have lost 40,000 jobs in Ontario and Quebec. We want to ensure that we have an over-all free trade agreement that creates jobs.

The Hon. Member is still raising the Auto Pact issue. I am telling him and this House that the Auto Pact is not on the table. Canada will not put it on the table. If the Americans want to put it on their side of the table, if they bring proposals forward that enhance investment, production and jobs in Canada, we will look at it.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

CODE OF CONDUCT—STOCK HOLDINGS OF MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and concerns the so-called blind trust of the Minister of Public Works which appears to have 20/20 vision.

We know the Minister received at his home monthly statements of his stock portfolio, contrary to the conflict of interest guidelines. We know the Minister's friend and fund raiser was managing his portfolio contrary to the guidelines. How can the Deputy Prime Minister say that the Minister's assets were in a blind trust when he was receiving stock portfolio information on a monthly basis, and when his best friend and fund raiser was managing that portfolio? Would he not agree that is a blatant breach of the guidelines?