

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

TRADE**AUTO PARTS—ALLEGED INHIBITING OF EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES BY STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF U.S. CUSTOMS REGULATIONS**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact the minister denied the accuracy of a suggestion I made a few weeks ago about the strict enforcement of customs regulations by United States customs officials, in terms of inhibiting the export of Canadian automotive parts to the United States, and in view of the further fact that yesterday in Windsor the executive vice-president of the Canadian Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Wood, stated, "the enforcement of these procedures is inhibiting purchases of automotive parts from Canada," I wonder whether the minister is now in a position to comment on this situation? Are American officials or are they not inhibiting the export of Canadian automotive parts to the United States by work to rule or overzealous enforcement of the tariff regulations of that country?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I stand behind what I said at the time. A further investigation was carried out more recently into that subject, which again confirmed what I said in the House at the time. I will consult with Mr. Wood and ask precisely what he has in mind and report to the hon. member accordingly.

Mr. Broadbent: Would the minister also consult with Mr. Wood concerning his contention that American parent firms of Canadian subsidiaries in the auto parts sector of the industry are apparently putting pressure of some sort on the Canadian subsidiaries to restrict them from gaining access to export markets for this industry?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I like the use of the word "apparent". The hon. member is becoming more cautious in his questions nowadays. We checked sometime ago on that particular issue of whether some pressure was being exercised on them and the report proved to be not well-founded. On the general situation of the auto parts industry my information from well informed sources is that the industry is witnessing a very good trend at the moment, as good as last year but not as good as next year if forecasts of automobile purchases prove to be true.

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[Translation]

FAMILY INCOME SECURITY PLAN**FAMILY ALLOWANCES—AGREEMENT BETWEEN OTTAWA AND QUEBEC—EXERCISE OF LEGISLATIVE POWER BY PROVINCES**

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Recently, the Premier of Quebec announced that this government and the government of Ottawa were pre-

[Mr. Pelletier.]

pared to sign an agreement concerning family allowances. I would like to know whether in that agreement the federal government has recognized Quebec's primacy as far as family allowances are concerned.

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the arrangement has not dealt with the concept of primacy or otherwise. It has been a co-operative endeavour to reconcile the priorities that Quebec feels it has under the family allowance structure with the main thrust of the federal legislation. I am very hopeful that the agreement will be concluded shortly.

[Translation]

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a supplementary.

Could the minister tell the House whether provinces other than Quebec want to avail themselves of the privilege that will be granted to Quebec in relation to family allowances?

[English]

Mr. Munro: No, Mr. Speaker. No other province has specifically indicated yet that it intends to take advantage of the option. Some are looking at it and studying it but they have not come to any firm conclusions.

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INDUSTRY**DOMINION AVIATION—REASON FOR DELAY IN DECISION ON DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce based on his reply to a question asked by the hon. member for Peace River on March 16 which appears at page 883 of *Hansard* with regard to a request from Dominion Aviation for a development grant. Since this company has resubmitted its application by government request, can the minister indicate why there has been a further six-weeks delay in reaching a decision?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, I do not know, but I will investigate and report.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**PROVISION OF GUIDELINES FOR EMPLOYEES WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS**

Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the first report of the committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts on the case of Anne Booth and the Public Service Commission, can the Acting Prime Minister indicate what action the government or Treasury Board or the Public Service Commission is now taking with a view to providing guidelines so that public servants who wish to participate in politics will know whether they will be permitted to do so?