

*Oral Questions*

to do anything that we have not fully acknowledged presently in our approach to economic development.

## REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUDGET

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, the Minister of Finance knows absolutely clearly that it was the megaprojects that the government was counting on to be its economic saviour in the 1980s and the 1990s.

**Miss Jewett:** That is right.

**Mr. Riis:** Will the minister send a clear signal to Canadians today that he will be bringing in a new budget before the end of June?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I attempted to answer that question earlier, in reply to the hon. member's leader. I want to tell the hon. member that when a decision is taken to bring in a new budget, when the circumstances are appropriate—

**An hon. Member:** They are appropriate now.

**Mr. MacEachen:**—I will advise the House and take my hon. friend into my confidence at the earliest possible time.

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## AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

## CANADIAN CONTENT IN JAPANESE MANUFACTURED VEHICLES

**Mr. Gordon Gilchrist (Scarborough East):** Madam Speaker, I wish to address an important question to the Prime Minister on a matter which was raised on Monday in this chamber, the subject being Canadian parts content in Japanese manufactured vehicles, to protect Canadian jobs and give opportunity to our vital automotive industry which employs 101,000 Canadians. On Monday he took the question under advisement. I expect that with a five o'clock departure tomorrow to Versailles there is no more time to consider it. Would the Prime Minister assure the House that he will meet with Premier Suzuki of Japan and insist on a much higher Canadian parts content, much higher than the one half of 1 per cent which the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce admitted was the Canadian parts content in Japanese cars?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member will remember that I took notice of that question in the absence of the Minister of State for International Trade. Of course the subject has been discussed between us before and since then. I will keep in mind the negotiating strategy of the minister when I meet Premier Suzuki in Versailles.

## REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE ON ISSUE

**Mr. Gordon Gilchrist (Scarborough East):** Madam Speaker, that is a far cry from an assurance, at a time when the automotive industry is in the dire straits the Prime Minister talks about. One half of 1 per cent parts content is a long way from 85 per cent. Some 101,000 direct jobs,—625,000 jobs in the industry in total—are dependent upon this kind of decision. I wonder if the Prime Minister would reconsider and give us an assurance that a much higher parts content will come about, rather than the Mickey Mouse tactics of slowing down the import of Japanese cars through inspections on the west coast.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I repeat that the strategy we are employing in regard to negotiations with the Japanese is not something I would want to discuss with the hon. member across the aisle of this House. He does recall himself that on Monday there seemed to be division within his own Conservative caucus as to whether we should be encouraging the entry of Japanese cars or discouraging that entry. I had hoped that in the last three days they might have got their act together, but I see that they have not.

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## SHIPBUILDING

## GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR INDUSTRY

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce that is prompted by the concern expressed by the Canadian shipbuilding industry. When the government reduced the shipbuilding subsidy from 20 per cent to 9 per cent, approximately two years ago, it promised the industry a revision in its policy. To date that program has not been forthcoming. What is the current situation? Is the minister now ready to tell the Canadian shipbuilding industry what the government is willing to do to assist the industry?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, contrary to what was suggested by my hon. friend, the government did not reduce the subsidy. That subsidy of 20 per cent was a temporary measure. Once its term ended, the subsidy was allowed to revert to the basic 9 per cent. However, we also set up a task force to consult with the shipbuilding and ship repair industries, with the trade unions, and with the users of Canadian ships. We are looking at the results of this consultation very actively, as a basis for decisions on a new policy. I think we are fairly advanced in our consideration, at the cabinet level, and I hope to be able to make announcements, together with my colleagues, on this matter before too long.