

*Oral Questions*

Auto Pact coming up. Why does the Prime Minister not admit this and say now that he will insist that the Auto Pact not come onto the table, directly or indirectly? Why does the Prime Minister not take a stand now for Canada and Canadian workers?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has just confirmed the contradictions and the confusion in his own Party. I can simply repeat what we have said before. There are no proposals on the table. We do not know what the Americans are proposing to put on the table. We have said repeatedly that we are not prepared to put any proposals on the table. If the Americans do put proposals on the table, we will look at them and, if they are in the national interest and are good for Canada, we will consider them.

The Hon. Member should be the one person in this House who knows that according to the Auto Pact, "at any time at the request of either Government, the two Governments shall consult"—and I am reading from the text—"with respect to any matter relating to this agreement". They are free to bring this forward at any time.

● (1430)

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, has the Minister not just admitted that what the Americans did Friday night was to give notice they want to discuss the Auto Pact? Does she not stand condemned out of her own mouth—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** —in saying that the Americans are ready to discuss the Auto Pact and the Government is ready to sit down with them for that purpose?

I want to ask the Minister specifically why it was necessary for the Americans to give notice Friday night that they wanted to discuss automotive issues if this was simply part of an ongoing discussion. Let the Minister now admit that there is a new and disastrous turn to the discussions—

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** You are a joke, Herb.

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** —and if the Government is not going to take a stand against that turn, it will be irreparably harmful to the Canadian economy and Canadian workers.

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** No, Mr. Speaker.

## POSITION OF UNITED STATES NEGOTIATORS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, someone noticed, and probably Bill Jarvis will remark, that I have taken a significant step to the left, but I—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** My question is directed to the Prime Minister. I want to say at the outset—

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Why not move down a few more seats?

**Mr. Broadbent:** I want to say—

**Mr. Fennell:** Lloyd is not here today.

**Mr. Broadbent:** —that he has observed the Ontario economy has been doing well. The reason is we have had in place since 1965—

**Some Hon. Members:** Free trade!

**Mr. Broadbent:** —an automotive agreement. It is not a free trade agreement. It required investment in Canada and we do not want to put an end to it.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** You were against it then.

**Mr. Broadbent:** It seems pretty clear that most of the Premiers came out of the meeting yesterday concerned that the Government was heading for a desperate deal rather than a good deal with the U.S.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Name one.

**Mr. Broadbent:** The Americans are boasting—

**Mr. McDermid:** Who said that, Ed?

**Mr. Broadbent:** —that they have four concessions from the Canadians so far, including—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, the Americans are boasting they got four major concessions, including slashing Canadian tariffs, opening new sectors of the Canadian economy to U.S. investment, changes in our drug patent legislation, and changes in investment as it affects services, during the discussions on a free trade initiative with Canada. They have made all these significant gains in the discussions. Could the Prime Minister assure Canadians that he is not heading for a desperate deal by giving us a similar list of gains Canada made in those discussions?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the significant gains will be submitted to the House at the conclusion of the negotiations. If the transaction, a very important commercial transaction, is deemed to be in the national interest by the Government of Canada, it will be brought forward for consideration, as it should be.

Oftentimes opinions change. For example, when the federal Government went in 22 years ago to unilaterally, without consultation with the Province of Ontario, negotiate the Auto Pact, that was denounced by many members of the NDP as being inimical to the interests of Ontario. It turned out to be