

Speech from the Throne

live and work, some 250,000 of us in the greater Windsor area, facing some four and a half million people in the greater Detroit area. Our feeling of isolation from the geographical and population points of view is thus readily understandable.

Our situation makes us highly sensitive to changes in our economic relationships with the United States. Since Windsor contains substantially the whole manufacturing operation of Chrysler Canada as well as large parts of the manufacturing operations of Ford and General Motors, plus many automotive plants and automotive-related businesses, Windsor residents are understandably worried about the future of the auto pact.

• (1250)

There is no reason for their fears—certainly not from the words or actions of the government—other than the necessary secrecy in the continuing negotiations. I myself have publicly stated that there is no danger that Canadian jobs or interests will be bartered away by the government for the advantage of other sectors of our economy. This is my firm belief and it is the firm commitment of the government. I believe it is worth underlining here the statement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), made in the Speech from the Throne debate last Friday, that Canada will be as firm in the defence of our trading interests vis-à-vis the United States as it was in the currency revaluation controversy several months ago, and that Canada's trading posture with the United States will be varied only to the mutual advantage of both countries and not to the unilateral advantage of the United States. Those were welcome words to my constituents, Mr. Speaker.

The second problem has to do with culture, and particularly with television. Windsor has a single VHF television station, CKLW-TV Channel 9, and no UHF station.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. MacGuigan: Certainly.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, is the hon. member aware that the government of Canada actually changed its negotiating position on the Canada-U.S. automotive agreement between last December and January of this year? Is he not also aware that the original intent of the Canadian government was to give up the production safeguards in the Canada-U.S. automotive agreement? Further, is he not aware that the government has not yet committed itself to maintaining the production safeguards in the Canada-U.S. automotive agreement? If all the implied answers to my questions are in the affirmative, on what does the hon. member base his assurance that Canadian jobs, not necessarily immediately but six months from now or even two or three years from now, will not be lost as a result of current negotiations?

Mr. MacGuigan: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) had made it his hobby in the last few months to predict what the government will or will not do in the secret negotiations proceeding with the United States. So far, all his predictions, including the timetables which he has advanced several times, have proven wrong.

[Mr. MacGuigan.]

Mr. Broadbent: That is absolute and utter hogwash. Why not answer the question?

Mr. MacGuigan: Therefore it seems to me that the most important thing for us to know with respect to these secret negotiations is the position that the government of Canada has enunciated in this House and publicly across Canada.

Mr. Broadbent: It has not done that.

Mr. MacGuigan: The second problem I wish to deal with has to do with culture and, as I mentioned, particularly with television.

Mr. Broadbent: I hope the Windsor *Star* picks up the hon. member's answer. It was shameful.

Mr. MacGuigan: Windsor is within receiving distance of some ten United States VHF and UHF television stations. As I said, there is only one VHF television station in Windsor and there is no UHF station. In such a situation it is obviously important for a strong Canadian presence to make itself felt on the one Canadian channel available in Windsor.

In June, 1970, the Canadian Radio-Television Commission approved a change of ownership in CKLW-TV. The station was purchased from its previous American owners by Baton Broadcasting Limited, which became 75 per cent owner of the station; the CBC, through its subsidiary, St. Clair River Broadcasting Limited, became the owner of 25 per cent of the stock of the television station. An undertaking was given by the CBC that it would take over the entire ownership of the station within five years. In all these negotiations the CBC appeared in the position of a reluctant bridegroom. It was a shotgun marriage, with the CRTC holding the gun to the head of the CBC. Of course, we in Windsor are very pleased that the CBC has acquired a one-quarter interest in the station and has undertaken to take over ownership of the station completely three and a half years from now.

May I call it one o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Does the House agree to call it one o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): It being one o'clock I do now leave the Chair. The House will resume at two o'clock.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. MacGuigan: Mr. Speaker, in the 10 minutes or so I had before the break at one o'clock, I talked about the philosophical orientation of this year's Speech from the Throne. I also dealt with the first of the two issues which I had raised from the local Windsor point of view as fitting in with this orientation. That was the economic problem. I had just begun talking about the cultural problem. I had