

INDUSTRY**CLOSING OF TORONTO PLANT BECAUSE OF
AUTOMOBILE AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry. Has his attention been drawn to the fact that the Perfect Circle Company of Don Mills, Toronto, yesterday informed all its employees that the plant would be closed next Friday night as a result of the Canada-United States auto agreement? Since this is only five days' notice affecting 130 employees, more than half of whom have over ten years' service with the company, may I ask whether the minister has been notified by this company of its intention to close its operation and move its machinery to St. Thomas and whether the government is taking any action with respect to the future employment of the employees in question?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of the plans of the Perfect Circle Company but I would be glad to look into this matter.

Mr. Douglas: Has the minister asked the companies who are likely to be affected by the Canada-United States agreement to give his department and the department of manpower as well as the employees concerned much more adequate notice than five days?

Mr. Drury: Some time ago the Department of Labour issued an invitation or a request to companies involved in the transitional scheme under the automotive pact to notify that ministry of future plans involving changes affecting employees. This representation, or this invitation, was repeated by the department of manpower when it came into the picture, and it is still outstanding. I do not know whether there have been representations made with respect to the precise number of days notice to be given. I think this question is governed by provincial law.

Mr. Douglas: Will the minister undertake to find out whether this company has given notice of its plans either to the Department of Labour or to the department of manpower?

Mr. Drury: I said I would do that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Industry is

Inquiries of the Ministry

renegotiating the car pact will he speak on behalf of all Canadians in order that Canadians may be able to buy cars made in Canada at prices as low as they are across the border?

FINANCE**BANK OF WESTERN CANADA—PROTECTION
OF SHAREHOLDERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Ballard (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Is he considering any steps within the provisions of the Bank Act or otherwise to protect the investments of the thousands of small shareholders in the Bank of Western Canada now to be wound up?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker. As I said in reply to a similar question, the inspector general of banks has been instructed to protect the assets to the full extent of his abilities. Instructions to this effect have been in operation for some weeks and I am confident the assets are being well protected.

DIVORCE**CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE APPLICATION
OF BRITISH LEGISLATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Has the minister taken note of the fact that the parliament of the United Kingdom is apparently giving consideration to divorce legislation based upon marriage breakdown rather than upon the multiplication of matrimonial offences? Further, in presenting legislation to the house, which I understand he intends to do shortly, will the minister take into account the proposed British legislation to see if it has any application here?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question asked by the hon. member for Greenwood is the same type as one asked by the hon. member for the Northwest Territories. It is in the form of a submission or representation, which I am sure has been noted by the minister.