Oral Questions

• (1430)

LEVEL OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN CANADA

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister for International Trade. Why could the Minister not work out a deal with the Japanese who have over 20 per cent of our market, similar to the one Renault and AMC have entered into in Brampton where that company is prepared to invest \$750 million and directly create 1,800 new jobs as opposed to 350, plus another 4,200 spin-off jobs in the steel and other related industries? Why could the Minister not get as tough with the Japanese as they are with us? Has he ever tried to sell a Canadian made washing machine in Tokyo?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to hire the Hon. Member as a salesman. That is the last thing I would do. He needs to learn, first, that Rome was not built in a day, and, second, that American Motors were already here.

I want to refer the Hon. Member to the statements of satisfaction with the quota I negotiated, from Ford and the other Canadian car companies. I think I would go by their judgment sooner than I would go by the Hon. Member's. I am glad to see the Hon. Member gave credit to what the Minister of DRIE did in relation to the Brampton deal. I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that that was a case where AMC was already in the country. In relation to the Japanese, we now have the Honda deal in Ontario and we have a wheel plant in British Columbia. We have the Japanese using more Canadian parts including Michelin Tires from Nova Scotia. We are making some real progress.

Yes, Japan has been a very closed market, but it is a market that is opening up—

Mr. Crosbie: Order.

Mr. Regan: —and it is offering more opportunity for our sales each time that it opens a bit more. I think we are bringing things along well, and at the same time we are putting first the interests of the Canadian workers in the automotive industry and providing a level of protection.

IMPACT OF AUTOMOBILE IMPORTS ON JOBS

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): I have a final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has been failing for four years. He has achieved peanuts.

Mr. Nystrom: The peanut man.

Mr. Blackburn: When will the Minister ask the Japanese when they will give back those 20,000 jobs which they have taken from the auto industry and the auto parts industry? That is the question I am putting to the Minister.

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should keep in mind the fact that this Government turned the economy around in such a way that 25,000 Canadian automotive workers were recalled last year.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens: The industry is right down.

Mr. Nielsen: It is right on its backside.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Regan: That is the first thing I want to say to the Hon. Member. The next thing I want him to do is to take some time this summer to understand the flow of multilateral trade. As a country that has such a large trade balance in relation to our exports as against our imports, if we are going to say to every country: "Well, let us trade back the jobs that used to be in the other direction", then we will lose badly. We are creating many more jobs by our exports than our imports are costing us.

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THE OLYMPIC GAMES

CALGARY WINTER OLYMPICS—IMPACT OF CANADA SPORTS POOL CORPORATION ON FUNDING

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport. I want to inquire about what is going to happen to the Calgary Olympics. While the Government initially told the International Olympic Committee that it would guarantee funding for the Calgary Olympics, it subsequently said that such funding would depend upon the revenue from the sports pool. Given that the sports pool appears to be a money sump rather than a money maker, could the Minister tell the House just what effect this will have on the Calgary Olympics?

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that we were one of the first Governments to endorse Calgary's bid to host the 1988 Olympic Games. We were the first Government to make a \$200 million public commitment on behalf of the Calgary Olympic Games and, along with the residents of that city, we promised that the 1988 Olympic Games will be a success on the national and international scenes. What I fail to understand is that people who hail from Calgary and western Canada are trying to discredit that source of revenue and simply do not want any national Government to promote the Calgary Olympic Games. That I cannot understand. What I do understand, however, is that the media have launched a petty political campaign against Calgary and the people of western Canada.