

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for Calgary Centre. I realize that he has sought the floor for some time now, but the hon. member for Egmont is rising on a point of order.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister would respond to the first part of my question about style changes which the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs was unable to answer.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, in the sense that style changes, or a great many of them, do have an effect on safety, yes, there have been representations made. However, there is some difficulty with regard to applying safety regulations per se to the matters the hon. member has referred to, that is, in terms of the extra cost of style changes.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I appreciate that the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby has a supplementary but the Chair has recognized the hon. member for Calgary Centre and will recognize the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby next.

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TRADE

POSSIBLE ADMISSION OF UNITED KINGDOM INTO
EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET—POSITION OF CANADIAN
AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO GREAT BRITAIN

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister or the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, either of whom may be in a position to answer it. In view of the reported imminence of the entry of the United Kingdom into the European Common Market, has the Canadian government now received any definite assurances that Canadian agricultural products will continue to have entry into the United Kingdom market on favourable terms?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the situation is very fluid at this time. We have intervened on a number of occasions, both in Brussels and in London, in order to safeguard as much as we can our grain exports to the United Kingdom. On the previous occasion we obtained a number of concessions when the British introduce the levy system. We hope that the transitional period will be as long as possible—it appears it is going to be five years—so as to permit our exporters to adjust progressively to the situation that will be created.

Mr. Harkness: As far as other agricultural products in addition to grain are concerned, have we received any assurances that they will continue to be able to enter on competitive terms?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I think the best thing for me to do is to provide the hon. member, and possibly the House, with a detailed assessment of the situation. It would be difficult to answer for every product since the situation varies from one to another.

[Mr. MacDonald (Egmont).]

Mr. Harkness: Would the minister provide this detailed statement in the form of a statement on motions or otherwise so that the information will be in the hands of the entire House?

Mr. Pepin: It is perhaps dangerous to do so, Mr. Speaker, since these negotiations are going on now and, as I have said, the situation is fluid. I was volunteering in fact to have a very friendly conversation with my hon. friend.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILES—SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENT OF CANADIAN
SAFETY STANDARDS—EFFECT ON NORTH
AMERICAN PRODUCTION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one asked the Minister of Transport. In the past Canadian automotive safety standards have tended simply to duplicate those in the United States since the larger part of the market is south of the border. Given the fact that the percentage of cars now being produced in Canada does constitute a major segment of the total North American market, is the minister now considering improving safety standard regulations in Canada and thereby influencing in a significant way what happens in terms of the production of automobiles on the whole continent?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the answer is that I held discussions as recently as two weeks ago with one of the major auto manufacturers in which I indicated to them in general terms our desire to move independently regarding the introduction of certain safety standards that have particular applicability in Canada. I think I can say I received a positive response in this regard from the auto manufacturers. Perhaps more than most the hon. member will know the complexity of this subject in that many of the cars manufactured in Canada are destined for the United States, and vice versa. But, in short, we are trying to do precisely what the hon. member asks.

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AIRPORTS

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL—PROVISION OF NEW
TERMINAL BUILDING

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that international airports are so important to our resource industries, as we were told today in the committee, I wonder whether the minister, having now seen the mayor of Calgary and discussed the question with the Minister of Highways of the province of Alberta, can make a clearcut statement on the development of the international airport at Calgary?