

Canada—U.S. Automotive Agreement
INDUSTRY

APPROVAL OF CANADA-U.S. AGREEMENT ON
AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Drury:

That it is expedient that the houses of parliament do approve the agreement concerning automotive products between the government of Canada and the government of the United States of America, signed on January 16th, 1965, and that this house do approve the same.

Mr. Speaker: When the house rose last night it had under consideration the question of the admissibility of an amendment proposed by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Winkler) and seconded by the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot (Mr. Ricard) which reads as follows:

That after the word "same" in line 4 there be added the following:

"provided that the said agreement may not be renewed in its present or in an amended form without the prior consent of parliament."

I indicated that I would consider the matter overnight, although I had expressed my views during the course of the arguments advanced by hon. members. Having considered the matter further I should like at this point to give a ruling on the proposed amendment. A moment ago I reminded hon. members of the terms of the amendment, which perhaps I should repeat:

That after the word "same" in line 4 there be added the following:

"provided that the said agreement may not be renewed in its present or in an amended form without the prior consent of parliament."

I expressed some doubts as to the legality of the amendment and invited hon. members to express their views on the procedural aspect of the amendment to the motion. The argument was advanced by the hon. member for Edmonton West that it should be within the right of parliament to impose by its vote the type of condition which is contained in the amendment.

I am in full agreement with the hon. member on this aspect of his argument. However, with respect I suggest that the proper procedure to achieve this aim is not by way of amendment to the resolution but rather by way of substantive motion, with due notice. I agree with the contention put forward by the Minister of Transport that this amendment is in fact a new proposition. In my view it goes beyond the very limited and narrow terms of the question.

I should point out at this moment that on many occasions in the past hon. members

I have undertaken to give this suggestion the careful attention it deserves. Before we have such a meeting I wish to review the current federal and provincial legislation in this field, the question of jurisdiction that may be involved, and the reports and recommendations which have been made to governments on the subject.

This would include, the house will be interested to know, the important work undertaken in this field by the royal commission on the cost of borrowing money, cost of credit and related matters in the province of Nova Scotia; by the select committee of the Ontario legislature on consumer credit; by the special committee of the Manitoba legislature on consumer credit, as well as that of the special joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons on consumer credit. This review is under way, and I will be consulting further with the provinces on the question and timing of the proposed meeting.

AIR CANADA

WINNIPEG—REPORT OF INQUIRY RESPECTING
MAINTENANCE OF BASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. R. Sherman (Winnipeg South): I should like to ask the Minister of Transport a question, of which I more or less gave him notice earlier. I should like to ask the minister how close to completion is the job of translating the Thompson report, which has delayed its presentation for so long. This report concerns Winnipeg's aviation future.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I apologize to the hon. gentleman, but this was one case when something that is almost automatic, was not. I failed to make the inquiry of the Privy Council office which I will have made today, and I will let the hon. gentleman know.

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport for clarification. Did he use the word "automatic" or "autocratic"?

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not believe, sir, they are synonymous.

An hon. Member: They are over there.