

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I understand that such a process does exist. I understand that the post office has on a number of occasions offered to brief members of this House on the process and on all that is involved. I am told that the New Democratic Party has turned down at least one of those briefings.

If in fact the hon. member is not aware of the process, I will ask the post office to invite the hon. member and his colleagues to a briefing, so that they may be acquainted with the processes involved and make any suggestions they have for improvement.

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• (1200)

TRADE

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister for trade would agree that the harassment of Honda by the U.S. customs authority threatens future investment in Canada very severely.

Now look at what is happening. The U.S. authorities have said that the Honda Civic has less than 50 per cent North American content. Our authorities say it has 66 per cent North American content. Does not this great disparity indicate to the minister that we have to amend the free trade agreement to have precise content rules?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, let me just correct one point that my hon. friend made.

Revenue Canada has advised Honda that the North American content is greater than 50 per cent. It has not advised Honda of a specific figure such as my hon. friend has mentioned.

I fully agree with the substance of the member's question. It is one of the very clear objectives we have in the NAFTA negotiations, the North American free trade negotiations. If we are not successful in getting a North American free trade agreement, then under the free trade agreement with the United States we need to get clear rules of origin so we do not have this same problem repeating itself.

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister.

If this U.S. custom's decision goes against Honda, which it very well might, Canada's only remedy is under chapter 18 arbitration of the FTA. As the minister knows, one of the big problems with chapter 18 arbitration is that it is not binding unless the U.S. agrees that it will be.

Has the minister asked the U.S. to ensure that an arbitration decision under that provision will be binding and, if so, what was the response of the United States?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, we have, under the terms of the free trade agreement, initiated two consultations with the United States; one with regard to the Honda decision and the other with regard to the problem that we have with Camry also on rules of origin.

Let us follow through that process. We have presented our case very strongly to the United States government on both of these issues and we will continue to do that, working with both companies involved. The clear objective is to avoid these problems in the future by getting an agreement now or as soon as possible on how rules of origin should be interpreted by both governments.

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[Translation]

COMMUNITY WEEKLIES

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications and concerns his announcement yesterday about the subsidy for newspapers.

The minister surely knows that *Le Journal de Cornwall*, *Le Soleil de la Colombie* and many other weeklies serving Francophone communities outside Quebec are disappearing because of an arbitrary decision by Canada Post which considers these newspapers as weeklies rather than magazines.

I would like to ask the minister whether he is prepared to intercede with his colleague, the minister responsible for Canada Post, who refused to answer letters from the