

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice.

[English]

**Mr. Broadbent:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, I notice that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce was about to rise to answer my previous question. Perhaps he could be recognized.

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, I was indeed about to rise.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I notice the hon. member for Wellington wishes to ask a supplementary question. Perhaps the minister could answer both questions at the same time.

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a supplementary question to the Minister of National Revenue. Will he assure the house that his department will collect all taxes due and owing under the United States-Canada Auto Pact in the normal way, and remit taxes in accordance with the terms of the pact.

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I think that question has already been answered on the order paper.

**Mr. Broadbent:** May I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. Does he intend to take steps in the near future to compel the auto industry within a reasonable period of time to effect price parity in the automotive industry of Canada vis-à-vis that industry in the United States.

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, this is not part of the automobile pact. It is certainly, however, the intention of the government and of the industry to get parity of prices as rapidly as possible. Improvements have been made toward that objective.

If Your Honour will allow me to answer the general question, which pertains to the Departments of Finance, National Revenue and myself as responsible for the automobile pact, I will say that the automobile industry has done a very good job of implementing the pact and getting all the possibilities out of it. I think everyone recognizes this. I see some hon. members on the other side nodding in approval of that. The industry has done so—

[Mr. Broadbent.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It seems the minister is now making a very general statement. I would not think that would be in order at this time.

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister consult with his colleague the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs as to whether the pricing policies of the automobile industry warrant an inquiry under the Combines Investigation Act?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, the administration of the auto pact is difficult, and in doing it one must bear in mind the spirit or intention as well as the letter of the agreement. I think in all these matters the spirit is more important than the letter. In implementing we have been looking at the general results, at the growth in production, in productivity, in exports, in employment, in taxes collected, investments made. This is why we have been quite willing to accommodate the industry when some technicalities arose. This is what we have done in the remission of the \$80 million potential tariff which the government of Canada could have collected under the agreement.

**Mr. Hales:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the minister will realize the law is also important. Does the minister agree with his colleague, the Minister of Finance, when he said those who had slipped by a slight amount were not now going to be penalized and forced to pay the \$80 million?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question as asked is not in order.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Will the minister agree that the automotive industry on the Canadian side of the border, according to most efficiency experts, is now just as efficient as the industry south of the border?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think the question is argumentative.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the minister spoke of all the facets he was considering, he forgot about the Canadian prospective buyers having to pay through the nose. What has been done for the Canadian buyer of cars—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** When the minister was looking at all the advantages of