

report going to be tabled, and can we expect from this government some interest in AECL?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of State for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, when I made reference to that study, I believe I also said that the study would take about six months to complete. The study is continuing, and we expect that following its completion we will have something to announce.

**Mr. Dupras:** Mr. Speaker, Canadians have fresh in their minds the bungling of the Conservative government of this industry back in the 1950s, when Canadians were becoming increasingly worried about the fate of our Candu program. I want to know if we can get an answer before six months elapse.

**Mr. Wilson:** Mr. Speaker, to repeat my answer, we will not have an answer before that six months period is up. These contracts on Candu reactors are very complex. They have to be co-ordinated with the countries involved. The study is going on with people in Canada as well as with Mexican officials to see how we will be able to co-operate in the export of that product.

[Translation]

U.S. POLICY ON ATTENDANCE AT CONVENTIONS—REQUEST GOVERNMENT INTERVENE

**Mr. Bernard Loiselle (Verchères):** I have a question, Mr. Speaker. As a result of the U.S. legislation on convention expenses, the Canadian hotel trade has lost almost \$100 million in revenue. What progress is being made in the negotiations with the U.S. government in this regard, and what kind of representations does the Canadian government intend to make to the American government so that they will change their legislation?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of State for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, this question of convention business coming to Canada from the United States, which has been affected by the legislation concerned, is of very real interest to us.

We have had discussions at the official level with the United States, and these are ongoing. I believe that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has had discussions on this matter with the Secretary of State of the United States. They are aware of our concern and they are also aware of the concern we have for the linkage they have made between convention centres and border broadcasting. We are following this question very closely, and I hope there will be a satisfactory conclusion in the not too distant future.

[Translation]

**Mr. Loiselle:** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Does he intend to discuss this specific matter with President Carter during his forthcoming visit to Ottawa and what priority does he, personally, give to this issue?

### Oral Questions

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, indeed I intend to raise this matter with President Carter as it is one of our priorities.

[English]

CANADA-U.S. AUTO PACT—REQUEST QUESTION BE RENEGOTIATED

**Hon. John C. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of State for International Trade. In view of recent figures indicating that there is a \$2.9 billion trade deficit in the auto trade, in view of the fact that the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association has recommended to the government their need in particular for further investment and the need for a special fund for research and development and retooling and, further, that the government should seriously consider discussing the whole question of the auto pact and whether it should be opened up for renegotiation with the President of the United States—that being also a specific recommendation of the government—would the minister please tell us what he intends to do about these recommendations?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of State for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the brief to which the hon. member referred was presented to my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, about two weeks ago. We had a good discussion with the representatives at the time. Since then I have discussed it with other members of the association. It is currently under review. This is an important issue, particularly in the area of trade.

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** What about the present?

**Mr. Wilson:** The hon. member might address that question to the Prime Minister.

AUTO PACT—REQUEST PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS QUESTION WITH U.S. PRESIDENT

**Hon. John C. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I address my supplementary question to the Prime Minister who, I believe, heard my first question to the Minister of State for International Trade. Part of that question was whether this whole matter, serious as it is, will be discussed with the President of the United States this Friday by the Prime Minister.

I would also ask, in conjunction with that, whether the Prime Minister would indicate to the House whether he will discuss with the President of the U.S. the whole question of aid to Chrysler. As he knows, Mr. Miller, in the United States, has indicated they are giving loan guarantees of, I believe, \$1.5 billion to Chrysler in that country. Mr. Miller indicated that perhaps similar action should be contemplated by other jurisdictions, particularly in view of the fact that the Chrysler Corporation, I believe, lost some \$40 million this year and some \$80 million last year. Would the Prime Minister indicate