

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, may I follow that up. I am not asking the cabinet to veto the decision. That is a question of law. What I am asking involves a simple question of fact and not a question of law. Will the government ask the board to review its decision? There is nothing in the legislation to prevent the government saying to the National Energy Board, will you review your decision, will you review the evidence and see if you cannot go farther inasmuch as the United States has approached the U.S.S.R. and may take from that country part of its natural gas and crude petroleum requirements, thus cutting Canada off? It is important.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, it is not the intention of the Canadian government to ask the National Energy Board to review its decision. That would seem to us to be a kind of interference with what Parliament intended should be a purely objective finding.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Come now. Don't be so coy.

**Mr. Speaker:** Has the hon. member for Hamilton West a supplementary?

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Speaker, it is not a supplementary to the question just asked.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If it is not a supplementary to that question, perhaps the hon. member will allow the Chair to recognize the hon. member for York South and then return to the hon. member for Hamilton West.

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**LABOUR CONDITIONS****UNEMPLOYMENT—NUMBER OF JOBLESS EXPECTED BECAUSE OF U.S. IMPORT SURTAX—RESULTS OF NEW SURVEY**

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce who would have been here if he were not out of the country, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister a question arising out of a report that the number of jobless expected as a result of the American surtax is much lower than the number indicated by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce when the \$80 million assistance legislation was introduced. Has a new survey been made and what is the result of that survey with regard to the extent of the impact of the American surtax on Canadian manufacturing?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce will be prepared to answer that question.

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that a working paper was prepared which reviewed the figures from the point of view of the effects of the surtax on Canadian employment and that this working paper indicated that the effect might be considerably smaller than the first figures had indicated. That is all I can say at this time. This question is under continuing review on the part of the government.

[Mr. Sharp.]

**Mr. Baldwin:** On what date will the information be leaked?

**Mr. Lewis:** Obviously the first figures cited by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in September—I do not recall the exact date—were exaggerated figures suggested by the companies involved. May I ask the acting minister what the figure is in the latest working paper as to the effect of the surtax and whether the figure of 44,000 is correct? May I also ask the acting minister whether or not the \$80 million has already been committed to various companies in this country?

**Mr. Gillespie:** Mr. Speaker, on the first point, I believe that the figure of 44,000 is close, although not precise. With respect to the commitment of the \$80 million, as of November 25 there were approximately 250 applications received of which 60 had been approved. The total grants with respect to the applications received were in the order of \$8 million of which \$1,285,000 has been approved. The total number of persons involved in these applications is 10,000 with respect to those received, and 3,700 with respect to those approved.

**Mr. Lewis:** In view of the figure just given by the minister that only some 3,000 are involved in the grants approved and only about 10,000 in the applications, where does the \$80 million come in and what about the remainder of the 44,000-odd employees who are supposed to be affected by the surtax? Where exactly are we in the program?

**Mr. Gillespie:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will appreciate that applications are being received every day. We are hopeful, as I am sure the hon. member is, that it will not be necessary to commit the whole \$80 million. The \$80 million is a standby, if needed. We hope it will not all be needed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I believe the hon. member for Hamilton West wanted to ask a related question a moment ago.

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**INDUSTRY****AUTO PARTS MANUFACTURERS' REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TOOLING ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Has the government considered the request of the Auto Parts Manufacturer's Association that the government provide special tooling assistance grants to help meet this industry's present difficulties and, if so, when will a statement be made in this regard?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have heard the hon. member's representations and I will take them into account.