

Oral Questions

● (1450)

[English]

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRYSTATUS OF GOVERNMENT'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHRYSLER
CANADA

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. How did the cabinet like the new Chrysler deal the minister put to them? Will the minister make a statement in the House with respect to this matter, or will he sneak out and hold a press conference?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, I have not yet put a proposal before cabinet with respect to the Chrysler matter. If and when there is a decision taken on this matter I will be happy to make a statement, with the concurrence of the House leaders.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Gray: I think the hon. member will have to look forward to whatever decision we are in a position to announce when and if it is taken with respect to this matter.

Mr. Deans: Will the minister indicate the number of dollars, in his scaled-down commitment, which will be invested in Canada in 1981, 1982 and 1983? How many of the current jobs will be protected, and exactly which components of the new K-car will be manufactured here?

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, we have entered into no new agreement with Chrysler. If that should happen to be the case, then I will be very happy to disclose the details.

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TRADE MARKS

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

Mr. W. Kenneth Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that trade mark rules have not been revised in any substantial way since 1954, and in view of the fact that it is necessary to have a complete revision of the rules with the advent of a trade marks act, will the minister advise the House when we can expect to receive the new act?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): Madam Speaker, the hon. member is right, it is an issue with which the House will have to come to grips very soon. Unfortunately, the legislative schedule is so heavy that the study of several excellent pieces of legislation will have to be delayed. It is my hope that the

opposition will co-operate with the government House leader to find a way for the House to expedite passage of many such bills in the coming weeks.

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[English]

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTAPPLICATION OF PROGRAM TO DEAL WITH REGIONAL
INEQUALITIES

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It deals with the manufacturers' tax credit program. In the minister's words the program was designed for new manufacturing investment in specifically designated areas in the country characterized by high unemployment and low income. How does the minister justify the fact that in New Brunswick there are at least four regions which would more than qualify under the program with respect to high unemployment and low per capita income, in comparison with those which were designated in Nova Scotia? There are at least two other areas which qualify for the program under those terms in comparison with those which were actually designated. How can the minister justify that, other than the fact that those regions not designated are represented by Conservative members?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): No, Madam Speaker, that would not be a justified conclusion. We operate rather differently from the government of which the hon. member was a supporter when it cancelled decentralization programs in constituencies which were held by non-government members. We have abandoned that kind of politics. We have the tax credit program for areas in the country that can be tested on the basis of economic criteria, not political criteria. If these areas are outside, it is because they are not deserving economically, not politically.

Mr. Corbett: Madam Speaker, in the maritime region that is "fish scales", and the minister knows it. Will he not reconsider the decision he has taken to designate those areas and include all areas which meet those criteria, as he has now said that the decisions will be taken on a fair and equitable basis? Will the minister not reconsider, and include those areas which do meet the criteria of high unemployment and low per capita income? Will he assure the House and the maritime region that all future programs will be shared equally amongst all areas which qualify?

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, I should explain to the hon. member that the Department of Regional Economic Expansion was responsible for the selection of the areas. As I stated in the budget speech, I introduced that particular tax credit upon the urging of the minister who wished to have a powerful incentive for the poorest areas of the country. It was the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and his department which established the criteria and selected the areas, not myself or the Department of Finance. I believe that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion would be eager, as I