

Member just exactly what Mr. Yeutter said yesterday: "From my viewpoint, everything is on the table but that should not be interpreted as meaning that the auto pact would be changed in any way. We should not draw any conclusions as to whether the pact will be changed at all. It seems to be working well".

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, that is not the question. We are trying to get a measure of this man's capacity as a negotiator.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): When Mr. Yeutter made his comments, did the Minister also add that not just himself, but the Minister of State for External Affairs and the Deputy Prime Minister had already ruled that out? Did the Minister take it off the table as he should have, given those comments in the House of Commons?

Mr. Fulton: Come on, fence post.

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, as I said previously on many, many occasions, we are not in the process of taking particular subjects off the table at this time. As I explained earlier, Mr. Yeutter is entitled to put forward the position of his country, just as we have put forward the position of our country on many occasions.

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INSURANCE

PLIGHT OF UNITED CANADA COMPANY

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. I gather the Minister is familiar with the plight of an insurance company called United Canada which happens to insure 238 of the major trucking companies in Canada which represent 25 per cent of the trucking industry or approximately 23,000 jobs. During the last month United Canada has been in a deficit position and effectively 238 trucking companies on the road have been technically uninsured. Tomorrow the Superintendent of Insurance will close down that company and I want to know what action the Minister has in mind.

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to explain to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition that both the Minister of Transport and myself have been in constant touch with the Truckers' Association and with the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Foster: There goes another \$1 billion.

Mrs. McDougall: We do recognize the seriousness of this situation and have been working with the industry toward a solution. Even as we speak, the industry is discussing a private sector solution and when I have the complete facts on that I will be happy to inform the House.

Oral Questions

IMPACT ON TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, if the company goes under tomorrow—it has been in deficit for a month and 25 per cent of our entire trucking industry is technically without insurance—it will be too late.

The Canadian Trucking Association has been in touch with us. It said it has been talking to the Minister of State for Finance and the Minister of Transport for the last four weeks without results. It is unable to find a private solution without some sort of federal guarantee to get it going. Is the Minister going to supply that guarantee?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, first of all, some of the truckers have found insurance with other insurance companies so I do not want the Hon. Member to over emphasize the problem, although I recognize it is serious. The truckers themselves know of my concern. However, at the moment negotiations are going on and I would not be prepared to prejudge their conclusion.

● (1450)

NEED FOR ACTION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am trying to impress upon the Minister that she has no more time. Only 30 of 238 companies have managed to find other insurance and tomorrow some 25 per cent of the industry on the road will be uninsured. She has no more time and the Canadian Trucking Association takes this very, very seriously indeed.

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I did not actually hear a question, but let me just say that the Trucking Association is very well aware of the concern and assistance this Government has given.

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SMALL BUSINESS

REFORM OF CORPORATE INCOME TAX

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance and concerns small business financing. Many small businesses capable of making profits and competing in the market-place cannot survive simply because of cash flow problems as a result of the past recession. Can the Minister tell the House if reform of the corporate income tax now being considered will be aimed directly at alleviating this most serious problem for small business?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the interest of the Hon. Member in both the problems and opportunities of small business is well known to all Members. I appreciate his question. He is aware, I am sure, that in the May Budget we released a paper on corporate tax reform which touches on some of the concerns he raises. The tax reform is directed at reducing some of the tax incentives but at