

of the increasing price gap evident from figures announced last week, would the minister tell us what specific steps he is prepared to take with his counterparts in the United States—not within the industry, which we recognize as being almost wholly owned in the United States—to renegotiate the safeguards in the auto pact, perhaps in the direction of establishing mutual safeguards which would protect both countries?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** I should like to make it quite clear that I do not accept the figures the hon. member put on the record last week. I think I should make it quite clear to him, as he did not make clear to us, that he was using 1972 figures for the calendar year 1972 before we took our action. Second, he was using figures for a typical vehicle, not for a weighted average of all vehicles. If he looked at it from that point of view I think he would find that the statement I made and the statement he made do not bear any relationship with one another. Mine was correct. His was not.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I hope we shall not become involved in a debate or argument between the hon. member and the minister.

**Mr. O'Connor:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I would point out that the figures I used in connection with the price gap widening were 1973 model figures, not 1972. They were clearly indicated in the report of the President of the United States to Congress, and I do not know how the minister justifies his interpretation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I would say that both the minister and the hon. member are out of order when they debate who is right and who is not. We should return to questions and answers. The hon.\* member may ask his supplementary.

**Mr. O'Connor:** Mr. Speaker, the minister effectively raised a smokescreen by debating the figures I gave last week. I ask him now to answer the question I put to him a few moments ago.

**Mr. Gillespie:** I hope the hon. member will take a look at the difference between a 1973 model and the 1972 year. I should like to make it clear to him and to the House, as I have in the past—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member rose on a point of order, and after making that point of order he asked the same question he had earlier. He was not satisfied with the minister's first reply—

**An hon. Member:** There was no reply.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest we go on to the next question.

### Oral Questions

#### LABOUR RELATIONS

##### STRIKE BY SEAFARERS' UNION—ACTION TO SETTLE— REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. It has to do with a very serious situation in that a couple of hundred dock workers, members of the Seafarers' International Union, are already on strike. The threat has been made that the rest of the 3,750 members will not show up on fitting day which, as it happens, is April 1. I ask the minister what is being done to settle this strike, because, if it goes ahead, it will be a knock-out for the western producer of wheat and other grain for export.

● (1450)

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I fully realize, as does the government, how serious this situation could become, especially if the strike carried on after April 1, the normal opening of the shipping season. Experienced and knowledgeable mediators with the Department of Labour have been meeting with the parties, union and management. The last report we have is that the positions are quite clear. They are still apart, but the mediators and all the facilities of my department, including any efforts that I can make, are available to the parties in the hope that this dispute can be resolved. I feel there is still sufficient time to permit a settlement before serious damage can be done.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the right hon. gentleman—

**Some hon. Members:** Order!

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Perhaps hon. members would let me mention—I am sure the House will be happy to know this—that the strike involving Air Canada was settled over the weekend.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** We read that in the newspapers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps the hon. minister would want to revert to motions for the purpose of making a statement.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I asked about one thing and the answer is about another. I now ask the minister whether the government, in view of the fact that negotiations under the federal negotiator or mediator have virtually broken down, will bring this matter before parliament before April 1, unless a settlement is arrived at, in order that action may be taken so that this strike will not continue, or will the government follow the alternative of getting in touch with that Liberal protégé, Banks, who was always able to settle strikes?

**Some hon. Members:** Order!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** He was the best mediator of all until he became a refugee from justice.

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I think it has been the history of labour negotiations at the national level that it has never paid to deny the right to strike to