

Canada-U.S. Automobile Agreement

mitting tenders which Chrysler considers competitive with other parts manufacturers?

Mr. Nesbitt: To the best of my understanding and knowledge, they are not being asked for tenders. They were told tenders were not wanted from them. I cannot put it any plainer than that. When the full debate on this agreement takes place, I shall be glad to provide the Minister and the Member who just asked the question with all this information, including written letters and statements.

Mr. H. E. Gray (Essex West): Mr. Speaker, I, too, should like to participate briefly in the debate on this important question. Like the hon. Member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) I am also taking the position of reserving more extended remarks for the time when the agreement is brought before the House for formal consideration. However, because of the importance of this question to the area I have the honour to represent, I think I will avail myself of this opportunity to make some comments, with particular regard for some of the statements made by opposition speakers.

I was interested to note that the hon. Member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) asked a question as to whether the major auto manufacturers are really going to be using any part of the so-called \$50 million which they will not be remitting to the Government in tariffs for the purpose of retooling. I should like to draw to the attention of the House the fact that the Ford Motor Company announced just the other day in Windsor it will be spending \$50 million this year and next year to retool its engine plant and foundry. This is the purpose of the lay-offs to which reference has already been made in this House. I hope the lay-offs will be as brief as possible.

It has been suggested also, Mr. Speaker, that since these tariff amounts will not be going to the public treasury the people of Canada will, in effect, be paying for this retooling. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, is this really very much different from the depreciation allowances and tax incentives that are in effect now, designed to stimulate new investment and manufacturing in Canada? This is the type of measure which has already done so much for the City of Windsor which, together with my colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin), I have the honour to represent in this House. Is the Leader of the N.D.P. suggesting that there is something wrong with this type of incentive measure which has done so much to bring jobs and

new factories to Windsor? Is he suggesting it should not have been undertaken? If that is the case, it is a good thing it has been disclosed in this Parliament so that the people of my area will know where he stands on this particular point.

Mr. Fisher: I wonder if the hon. Member would permit a question? Has he heard of a provincial legislator in Ontario by the name of Newman—Bernard Newman—and has he followed the points that gentleman has raised in the Ontario Assembly expressing his worry and concern? I believe he represents Windsor-Walkerville, does he not?

Mr. Gray: Yes, and he represents it very well. He delivered several sound thrashings to the N.D.P. candidates in that area.

Mr. Fisher: What has that got to do with what you were just saying? He has been worried, too.

Mr. Gray: It has this to do with it. He is exhibiting the same type of concern with respect to the well-being of the people he represents as I have expressed to the Ministers concerned with this matter, and as I am expressing in this House. I hope that they will benefit, and not bear any type of burden in this transition to a greater extent than any other people in this country. I think he is carrying out his duty in raising this type of question in his own sphere of legislation, as I am in mine. I hope that the type of discussion we are having here will help reassure him with respect to these matters which have concerned him.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask the hon. Member a question? Does he think there is no difference between write-offs for money already invested and giving a company \$50 million in the hope it will invest this in plant expansion?

Mr. Gray: I would say, Mr. Speaker, that there is a very strong analogy. In order to carry out the commitments entered into in writing to this Government, they are going to have to carry out extensive new investments. I think it would be very surprising if these funds were not used, in whole or in large part, for this particular purpose. I think the point I have made in drawing the attention of the House to the similarity between the depreciation allowance and tax incentive write-offs, and this type of measure, is quite a valid statement.

I should like to suggest also that the Leader of the N.D.P. seems to exhibit a great