

Oral Questions

merce indicates that the Canadian automobile industry will be in a serious deficit position up to, including and beyond 1985. To be specific, the report states that the cumulative deficit from 1978 to 1985 will be in excess of \$10.3 billion. This is in addition to the \$7 billion cumulative deficit already on the books.

I should like to ask the minister, where are these new plants he has been talking about? We know about the Ford plant that the government of Ontario and the federal government put together with the aid of a grant, but where are the other three or four plants that the minister said were coming to Canada to help overcome this adverse balance?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I assume that question is directed to me, Mr. Speaker. The deficit in automobile trade this year will be exactly half of what it was last year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner: I am very pleased that the U.S. Department of Commerce is aware of the need for Canada to get additional auto plants.

An hon. Member: Where are they?

Mr. Horner: I want to assure the House we are doing everything we can, even cajoling, as we did, the Ontario government into putting up \$28 million to help us get the Ford plant. We shall continue to do that.

Mr. Kempling: The report out of Washington was put together by Data Resources of Canada for the U.S. Department of Commerce. Noting that General Motors has now pulled back on its proposed aluminum casting plant in Canada, can the minister tell us when there will be some firm statistics regarding the Canadian automotive industry? We do not have a report. We are the only country in the world which has an automotive industry but which does not have an annual report on it. When are we going to have that report? When will we see the Reisman report which the minister commissioned?

● (1432)

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, the Reisman report is a large document which outlines some of the figures, and I am sure it will help the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby because he is always having difficulty with figures. We are studying it and I hope to be able to make it public.

Mr. Kempling: When?

Mr. Horner: Very soon.

[Mr. Kempling.]

THE PARLIAMENT OF CANADA**VETERAN PREFERENCE FOR SUCCESSOR TO GENTLEMAN USHER OF THE BLACK ROD**

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. Inasmuch as Major A. G. Vandelac, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, has announced his wish to retire from that office, and as a meaningful recognition of our war veterans at this time of Remembrance Day observance, will the Prime Minister pledge to continue the principle of veteran preference in appointing a successor to this high and important office?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of the question.

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POST OFFICE**RECOGNITION OF REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, I have a related question for the Postmaster General. Yesterday, the minister announced that postal employees who wish to do so, will be permitted to attend Remembrance Day services on November 11. That, in itself, is commendable; but why is the Post Office not to be closed completely, as are government offices here in Ottawa, to allow the staff to observe Remembrance Day, rather than the crazy policy of having an undefined number of people leave their posts, which will effectively close the Post Office in any event?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I think I explained very well yesterday that in some areas postal service is essential and we have to provide that service. In many ways, some of our workers work in the same way as Air Canada pilots, policemen or anyone else who has to work on that day.

I said that we would accommodate and allow all latitude possible to veterans who want to participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies. I remind hon. gentlemen that I am a veteran myself: I know the meaning of this day, and I will see that all veterans who want to participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies will be able to do so.

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COMMUNICATIONS**INQUIRY WHETHER CFER-TV, RIMOUSKI, WILL BROADCAST PROGRAMS IN GASPÉ AREA**

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications.

A few months ago the minister attended the opening of CFER-TV station in Rimouski. This new station covers only part of the lower St. Lawrence and the north shore. The