

that, and some polish could be given to the motion, so that at the end of the question period there might be an appropriate motion to be put. I might invite the co-operation of the House later in that regard and re-raise the matter at the time the question period concludes which, I would think, should be in about 50 minutes from now bearing in mind the ordinary duration of the question period on Friday.

Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT—REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON RENEGOTIATION

Mr. Jim Balfour (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Yesterday in the meeting with the United States Commerce Secretary the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce agreed that there is no need to renegotiate the auto pact. I appreciate the minister's desire to be a good host. However, I think the Prime Minister should give this House a full explanation as to how that position enhances our national interest. Would the Prime Minister explain the government's position on this and table all the background material that led the government to this position.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the member is asking me for a statement. I will convey the question to the minister concerned.

Mr. Balfour: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is again directed to the Prime Minister. I understand there are differences of opinion about the timing and nature of any changes. However, I would have thought the government at least would have kept the option open on the matter of renegotiation. Is it the position of the government that the existing terms will ensure in 1976, and over the medium term, balance in all aspects of automotive trade? If so, would the Prime Minister explain the basis for such confidence?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to draw these further remarks to the attention of the minister.

CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE EFFORTS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I appreciate the difficulty here because the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce who was involved in the negotiations is not here today. On April 30, 1976 the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce advised the House that political events in the United States during the balance of this

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calendar year may make it difficult to complete negotiations for any changes in the auto pact. That is recorded at page 13029 of *Hansard*. However, the United States Secretary of Commerce indicated that the United States election would not stand in the way of further talks on the auto pact this year. Would the Prime Minister assure this House that every effort will be made to resume talks on the renegotiation of the pact, as soon as possible, now that the assurances have been received that the political climate would not preclude such talks?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I understand that hon. members are making various representations. I understand also that the minister is travelling with the United States Secretary of Commerce and is in Toronto, I believe. I, myself, was engaged in a meeting with the first ministers, so there has been no discussion between Mr. Jamieson and myself. I will draw these various questions to his attention or his excellent parliamentary secretary will do that on my behalf.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT

Mr. Bill Kempling (Hamilton-Wentworth): My question is again for the Prime Minister. Reference was made in Mr. Richardson's remarks yesterday to the fact that major auto firms were ordering parts from third countries, which may be a factor contributing to the serious deficit of the auto parts industry. This reflects the fact that the auto pact is a bilateral agreement from the U.S. side and a multilateral agreement from Canada's side. Would the Prime Minister give serious consideration to the establishment of a special committee of this House to inquire, report upon and make recommendations with respect to the difficulties in the Canada-U.S. auto pact and of the auto parts industry under the Canada-U.S. auto pact?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Perhaps the hon. member could raise that with his own House leader and it will be discussed with the House leaders of the various parties.

CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT—GOVERNMENT VIEW OF NEED FOR CHANGES IN VIEW OF DEFICIT

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I too have a question for the Prime Minister. Although it concerns automotive trade it is not a detailed question which would require a ministerial reply. It concerns overall government policy. In view of the minister's statement that no changes are required in the autopact,—presumably reflecting government policy—and given the fact that the purpose of the pact, and I quote from the preamble, was to ensure "fair and equitable" growth in the industry for both countries, and since we now have had a cumulative deficit of more than \$5 billion in the 111 years of the pact, \$2 billion of which came last year, does the Prime Minister agree that it is government policy that no changes in such an unbalanced situation are required?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, here again the hon. member is asking me a question about a statement made by the minister which obviously I