

Member for Joliette can read and that his information resources are far better than that.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER DISCLOSE FUTURE INVESTMENT IN CORPORATION

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I am not impressed by the Hon. Minister's answers. The fact remains that he is incapable of informing the House what exactly the financial situation of this new Corporation is. The public is concerned, and the Government cannot afford to waste public funds at this time. That is the important point. The Minister knew perfectly well that he would not have the support of the Official Opposition for this "new creature", that he would not have the support of the provinces, because we had decided to give that source of revenue to the provinces—and we are glad we did so—and so, in the circumstances, the Minister is blaming the provinces, while he should be apologizing to the provinces instead of blaming them for being opposed to his system. Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask the Minister once more, and I will do so right now: How much public money will have to be spent to bail out an organization whose only purpose is to find jobs for partisans and Liberal friends?

Mr. Peterson: Louder!

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member for Joliette wants to put on a show, I can do that too! However, my responsibilities would not permit—I have just informed the House that the Canadian Government has made available the sum of \$10.5 million under the legislation creating the Canadian Sports Pool Corporation. I have just informed the Hon. Member for Joliette, through you, Mr. Speaker, that I have yet to receive a request for—So if you are smart enough to understand, which I doubt, this means that the full \$10.5 million has not yet been spent. Is that what you want to know? Since they did not ask—But I can say furthermore—In any case, we are not going to be as lavish as you were, when you gave the provinces \$500 million and kept only \$35 million for the federal Government—We need money to meet our commitments to Calgary. The people of Calgary and of Canada—

Mr. La Salle: There are other ways!

Mr. Olivier:—believe in the Olympics! We, Mr. Speaker, believe in amateur sport! We believe in medical research! As for the Hon. Members opposite, they are indulging in a lot of rhetoric to destroy the credibility of a Corporation—In any case, I would invite the Hon. Member to read the Corporation's press release. The Corporation says quite clearly how employees were hired and how contracts were signed. The Hon. Member was afraid of referring to it.

Mr. La Salle: That is false!

Mr. Olivier: The Opposition will never refer to it.

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn).

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● (1425)

[English]

TRADE

IMPORT QUOTAS FOR JAPANESE MANUFACTURED AUTOMOBILES

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade. We in this Party are bitterly disappointed over the Minister's weak-kneed approach to Japanese automotive imports for 1984-85. Why did the Minister not demand a greater investment commitment on the part of Japanese automobile manufacturers than the almost negligible promise, in today's terms, of \$100 million and 350 jobs, if we are lucky, by the end of this decade? Why was the Minister not stronger in his arguments?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Hon. Member asked that question. I am also delighted that he showed to the public his lack of understanding of how to approach a very difficult question such as international negotiations on the level of car imports into our country.

The Hon. Member must keep several things in mind. First, we are a trading nation which exports more than it imports. Second, we sell far more to Japan than we buy from them. They are an important and growing market, creating jobs for Canadian workers. I want him to recognize that in continuing the voluntary agreement with the Japanese I wanted to achieve a level which would keep pressure on them to continue the very good start they have made with negotiations in this country.

It is all very easy for the Hon. Member to second guess. This is the first time the Japanese have started to invest and create Canadian jobs by manufacturing in Canada. This was negotiated by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and is a big step forward.

Finally, he must keep in mind that this is not totally a one-sided thing. I have protected the Canadian workers with this level. I have also given Canadian consumers some continuing choice. They have the ability to buy Japanese cars if they choose to do so. That is the sort of world in which we should live.

Mr. Blackburn: Mr. Speaker, the Minister appeared so upset in giving his answer that I know very well he is not convinced that what he says is right. The Minister knows that he has not been bargaining with the strength he should have been bargaining with for the past four years. Japan has the most closed and most protected market in the world. I do not know why the Minister is not on top of it.