

Inquiries of the Ministry

INDUSTRY

NUMBER OF INFORMATION OFFICERS TO BE
ENGAGED BY DEPARTMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry. Would the minister care to confirm or deny that his department has hired or will be hiring 35 information officers, thereby establishing a ratio of one information officer to 18 officials?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): I can deny that the Department of Industry will be hiring 35 information officers. There is no such establishment provided, planned or approved.

Mr. Hales: May I ask a supplementary question. How many information officers does the department propose to hire?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I have not got the exact figures before me this morning. I will be glad to make a statement on this on Monday.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): May I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Industry. I understood the minister to say in reply to the first question that there was no establishment for information officers. Then in reply to the supplementary question he said he would be glad to make a statement on this subject. I should like the minister to clear up this point. If there is no establishment how can he make a statement on the subject?

Mr. Drury: I am sorry if I did not make myself clear. I said there was no establishment for 35 information officers.

QUEBEC—DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING ESTABLISH-
MENT OF AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRIES

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lake St. John): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry?

The director of Quebec's General Investment Corporation, Mr. Gérard Filion, who is now in Paris to arrange for the Peugeot firm to settle here soon, has stated that such a probable and possible move is hindered by the tariff concessions granted to that firm on parts it would have to import into Canada to assemble automobiles.

Is the minister in a position to tell us if his department or the Department of Fi-
[Mr. Sharp.]

nance intend to grant that firm the same tariff concessions that were granted to the Volvo firm when it settled in Halifax?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that the government is willing to grant the company represented by Mr. Filion tariff concessions equivalent to those granted the Volvo company.

Mr. Lessard: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Could the minister say whether other automobile manufacturers who are against the coming of that French company to Canada and to Quebec especially have brought pressure to bear? Have Chrysler, Ford or General Motors objected to the granting of tariff concessions to that company?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I must explain that the proposed concessions will be of a temporary nature only. Consequently, Chrysler, Ford and General Motors would not be justified in asking for the same concessions since they have been in Canada for a long time.

[*Text*]

FINANCE

MISCALCULATION OF FEDERAL REVENUES
BY MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a question for the Acting Minister of Finance based on a report as to the present revenue position of the government. Can the minister indicate whether current figures suggest that the Minister of Finance, in his last budget, miscalculated the revenue that would be received by the government?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Minister of Finance): I have read the articles referred to by the hon. member. I know the house will be happy to learn that the Minister of Finance has miscalculated the revenues, because the country is even more prosperous than he had expected at the time the budget was brought down.

Mr. Crouse: You inherited a very good economy.

Mr. Sharp: May I add, however, that the degree of improvement in the revenue position which is suggested in the articles, particularly the one in the *Financial Post*, is much exaggerated.