

Inquiries of the Ministry

portfolio in so far as they would affect the budget. They were among the representations made to me by a large number of people and organizations relating to the budget itself and, as usual, I have promised them the most careful consideration.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I address a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry and ask him whether the assessment of the situation as contained in this morning's paper to the effect that 90 per cent of the metal stamping companies in Canada which have done this business in the past are now being deprived of it by the big three. Is this a proper assessment of the situation, and will the minister tell us whether millions of dollars of business will be lost to these Canadian companies. If so, what action does the Department of Industry propose to take, since this is the department largely responsible for preparing and submitting to parliament the United States-Canada auto agreement?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, the house will be aware that there is a resolution on the order paper which will provide a better opportunity than orders of the day for a complete discussion of this question. In reply specifically to the hon. gentleman's question, in my view the newspaper account and the figures he has given are overstated and exaggerated.

Mr. Douglas: As a further supplementary question may I ask the minister whether his department is taking any action in order to assure itself and the country that there will be no large scale loss of orders for metal stamping in Canada?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I can give the hon. member that assurance. No one is more concerned than the Department of Industry that the very substantial expansion which is taking place in the automobile manufacturing sector in Canada shall be accomplished with a minimum of dislocation and a minimum of hardship, and daily we are directing all our efforts toward that end.

Inevitably, in a process of change, a process of expansion, there will be some hardship, but it is our intention to keep it to a minimum.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry. Will he undertake to bring the Canada-United States automobile agreement before the house as soon as possible and agree to have it submitted to one of

[Mr. Sharp.]

the committees, such as banking and commerce, to enable the members of the house to get all the facts, or as many facts as possible, on this whole matter?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I would hope this would come before the house at the earliest possible opportunity.

[Later:]

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Finance a supplementary question arising out of the report that President Johnson has asked congress to cancel the proposed reduction in import duties on automobiles and automobile parts. Would this action in any way affect the Canada-United States agreement we heard so much about recently?

Mr. Sharp: I would like to take notice of that question, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

WINTER WORKS**QUEBEC—DELAY IN PAYMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Can he tell us whether he has completed his inquiry concerning the federal government's delay in paying the amounts due under the winter works program for 1964-65? Would the minister tell us also whether his department is making every effort to pay those sums to the provinces and municipalities as soon as possible?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the inquiries I instituted after the question of privilege was raised by the hon. gentleman are not completed.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister tell us when this inquiry will be completed and when he will report to the house?

[English]

Mr. Sharp: As soon as possible, sir.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—INTEREST RATE ON C.M.H.C. LOANS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the