

*Oral Questions***CONSUMER AFFAIRS****ACCEPTANCE BY MANUFACTURERS OF AUTOMOBILES OF VOLUNTARY CODE AGAINST CORROSION—MINISTER'S POSITION**

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

As, at this time of the year, rusting of their automobiles is of particular concern to Canadians, can the minister tell the House if all the manufacturers of cars sold in Canada have voluntarily accepted the code against corrosion that was proposed by his predecessor, and if not, what steps does he intend to take to force the industry to solve that problem?

[*English*]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): When the draft anti-corrosion code was published earlier this year my predecessor and his provincial counterparts set up a task force to develop and implement the code. That work has been continued. I hope early in the New Year to announce the code in its final form as well as instructions for car care and other measures. I must add that if the code is not complied with voluntarily we shall have to consider legislative measures.

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FINANCE**POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS TO JOIN EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET IN VIEW OF DETERIORATING EXPORT TRADE**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Having regard to the serious economic conditions in Canada today and, in general terms, the serious deterioration of our export trade, may I ask whether it is a fact that negotiations have been going on for some time on the part of the government with members of the European Common Market with a view to arriving at a basis upon which Canada can join the ECM?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): I should inform the right hon. member that last year we had a trade surplus of one billion dollars and that this year it will be \$2.5 billion. As to joining the Common Market, no such discussions are going on that I know of.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Statistics by the minister are as far removed from the truth as it is possible for a statement to be.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I wonder if we can get silence from that chorus of geese over there. I ask the minister this: is there no foundation for press references to the effect that a minister is presently in Europe with a view, among other things, to looking into the admission of Canada to the European Common Market?

[Mr. Goyer.]

Mr. Chrétien: I always want to be extremely nice to the right hon. member. I cannot tell him we will have a deficit of \$2.5 billion when we will have a surplus of \$2.5 billion because I would then be lying to the House. I cannot escape telling the truth. We had a minister in Europe last week, the very good Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Chrétien: I know the right hon. member shares my views about the qualities of the hon. member for Crowfoot. I am sure that his visit impressed the Europeans very much but I am also sure he has not offered to join the ECM.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I rise only to congratulate the minister on his inability to know the constituency of the latest recruit to the Liberal Party.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS**PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DELEGATION FROM EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps this would be an appropriate moment at which to call attention to the presence in our gallery of a delegation from the European Parliament led by a distinguished member, Mr. James Scott Hopkins of the United Kingdom.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CANADA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA—POSSIBILITY OF REVIEW**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I should like to address my question to the Prime Minister. The Secretary of State in September referred to Canada's attitude to the behaviour of Canadian-owned multinational corporations in South Africa as "a bit of a cop-out". Is the government reviewing its stand on tax concessions or other support for Canadian corporations in South Africa involved in taking advantage of the South African policy of apartheid which discriminates against the majority of the population?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Relations between Canada and South Africa are presently under review.