

Oral Questions

[English]

TRADE

CANADIAN DEFICIT UNDER CANADA-UNITED STATES
AUTO PACT—STEPS TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY

Mr. Terry O'Connor (Halton): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce may I direct this question to his parliamentary secretary. Can he advise the House of the reason for the nine month \$181 million deficit under the Canada-United States auto pact, and what steps the government is taking to establish equality and equity under that agreement, as is stated in the agreement?

Mr. Herb Breau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the shift in trade balance is attributed in large measure to the large demand for North American type vehicles in Canada compared with the United States. We examine these figures regularly, and if changes are to be made in policy or anything else we will make them.

Mr. O'Connor: Further to that non-answer, Mr. Speaker, would the minister advise when the long delayed talks between United States and Canadian officials on the auto pact are going to get back on the track and when some positive steps will be taken?

Mr. Breau: I will transmit the question to the minister.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON AID TO THIRD WORLD
COUNTRIES

Mr. H. T. Herbert (Vaudreuil): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but in his absence I shall put it to his parliamentary secretary.

During the report on Ethiopia on "Format 60" last night, it was announced that unfortunately the federal government has decided to reduce aid to third world countries. May I ask why it has decided to adopt such a policy?

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this report on TV and in other media is absolutely false. If one federal body has been the subject of special attention from the government, it is indeed CIDA which has benefited from an annual increase of about 17 per cent in its budget for the past four years and which will get a substantial increase next year.

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[English]

SOCIAL SECURITY

ALLEGED DELAY IN DELIVERY OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE
CHEQUES

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister I wish to direct a question to the

[Mr. Ouellet.]

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Have the baby bonus cheques that were to go out on December 10 been cleared by his department?

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I cannot say whether they have been cleared through the department or not. I can say it has been traditional that they go out on the 10th or 11th, and we will do everything in our power to see that they go out as soon as possible.

Mr. Rynard: Why are they being held up?

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to be able to answer that question, but I will see that an answer is given at the first opportunity. An investigation will be conducted.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order having to do with page IV of the Order of Business and Notices Paper for today where notice is given by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources of introduction of a bill entitled "an act to impose a charge on the export of crude oil from Canada", also involving a ways and means motion.

My point of order is that there may be a typographical error in this notice. I hope it is that rather than a misrepresentation on the part of the minister. I read the following from the accompanying recommendation:

—there shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to defined provinces for a prescribed period, a proportion of 50 per cent of the revenues to such provinces calculated in the manner set out in the measure.

The minister has said over and over again, not only at the committee level but also in the House, that 100 per cent of that tax would be returned to the provinces that produce the resource. Either we have a typographical error where it says that only 50 per cent will go back to the producing provinces or this is one of those cases where the minister once again has deceived the House and the people of Canada.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I would again point out to the hon. gentleman, as indeed I have pointed out many times, that I indicated we would return to the provinces the royalties that they otherwise would have had and the federal government would then invest the balance of the tax in the producing provinces. Therefore these federal funds would go into the Consolidated Revenue Fund and be appropriated for investment in the producing provinces.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Like the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche) I was allowing my temper to cool, and was not aware that the rules required that a question of privilege be raised immediately. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration earlier made reference to the fact that the problem was not with the computers but with the people feeding the computers. I cannot accept that. I can prove categorically that the computers did not work at any time last winter and the people were not responsible.