

representations have been received in this connection from the United States or whether any discussions are planned on the subject in the near future?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I have not heard of any but I will look into the matter.

[Later:]

Mr. Gleave: I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware of the concern expressed by the United States authorities, is the Department of Agriculture taking the matter under consideration, and is it prepared to meet with its U.S. counterparts?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker, but I am sure the hon. member is aware that there was a complete cessation of any trans-shipment of beef through Canada to the United States last summer. I will check to make sure it has not resumed. If it has, then we have under our arrangement with the United States an obligation to see that it is discontinued.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION CAMPAIGN—MEASURES TO ASSIST CERTAIN QUEBEC INDUSTRIES

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Since the Quebec section of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce will initiate an information campaign in September, I should like to ask the minister whether this is only an information program, or does he intend to suggest certain supplementary grants to keep already existing industries?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, but I have not heard this question very well. Perhaps the hon. member could repeat it in other terms.

Mr. La Salle: With pleasure, Mr. Speaker.

In view of the information campaign which the Quebec section of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce will run in September, could the hon. minister tell us if this campaign will be only for information purposes or if the hon. minister intends to recommend additional grants for the maintenance of already existing industries?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce does not have a Quebec section. We operate on the national level, but at the present time we are making a special effort to help certain industries in the secondary sector, and this is done with the entire co-operation of the provincial Department of Industry and Commerce. If there is further information which I may give the hon. member, I will pass it on to him behind the curtains in a moment.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILES—DISCOURAGEMENT OF STYLE CHANGES—INCREASED SAFETY AND DURABILITY

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of recent statements out of Detroit to the effect that United States car manufacturers are considering the limiting of style changes in the future, can the minister inform the House whether his department has taken a position, either publicly or privately, on discouraging exorbitant expenditures on style changes and replacing such efforts with more concern about consumer protection in terms of safety and durability?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the automobile safety act is under the jurisdiction of my colleague the Minister of Transport. Naturally my department has taken a lively interest in the cost of motor vehicles and any steps that the manufacturers can take to reduce and keep down the price of cars. If this can be done by eliminating some of the needless style changes, it would be encouraging and very helpful to the consumer.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I am not sure the minister heard my question correctly. I asked him whether any representations have in fact been made or steps taken regarding what is obviously a very high cost factor. Has the minister had any direct contact with the automobile industry?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, the question was related to the application of those savings to safety devices which are under the administration of my colleague the Minister of Transport.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Perhaps I could direct my question to the Minister of Transport and ask him whether his department has made such representations. More specifically, in view of the new safety bumper presently under discussion by the United States Senate commerce committee, has the minister anything to report with regard to the co-operation of the Department of Transport on a similar study to be undertaken in this country into this prototype bumper?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, to the second part of the question the answer is yes. I have had direct contacts with the automotive industry and also with my counterpart in the United States, the Secretary of Transportation. We have an understanding regarding the exchange of information on safety matters and an agreement that we will, to the maximum extent that appears possible and also desirable, at least attempt to get whatever new innovations are introduced in the United States introduced in Canada, and vice versa.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Calgary Centre.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A point of order, Mr. Speaker.