Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, most provinces have made a statement of intent about the establishment of a Canadian energy bank. If that is necessary, I hope we can introduce a bill in the House in January or February. I hope we can do it in January. As for the issue of profits, we intend to develop a taxation scheme through which we can recoup most of the new profits the oil companies will make following the increase in the price. We will direct a large part of this money towards the Canadian energy bank while other revenues from that source will be directed towards Canada's other energy goals.

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[*English*]

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON POSSIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHRYSLER CANADA

Hon. John C. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Industry. He is no doubt aware that a few days ago Mr. Greenwald, a vice-president of Chrysler (America), appeared before a congressional committee and stated that negotiations were under way with the Canadian government for financial help for Chrysler Canada to the extent of $150 million to $300 million. As I say, he indicated—and this was confirmed to the standing committee last week—that negotiations were going on with Canada.

Could the minister advise the House whether, in the process of these negotiations, we are insisting on Canadian equity participation in the ownership of Chrysler here, as a means of ensuring that our money stays in Canada and that Canadian jobs stay in Canada to give our people opportunity for employment?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of State for International Trade): One of our principal concerns in the negotiations we are carrying on right now with the Chrysler Canada people is the employment of the people involved in Windsor. This will be studied from a number of different angles. Indeed, the question has been under study for about two months as a result of a series of meetings we have had with Chrysler Canada officials. I cannot say at this stage just what form of government support they would receive, if any.

As to the proposals we are considering, we are looking at a wide range of possibilities and as soon as decisions have been reached I will be very happy to advise the House.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. He can no doubt give a specific answer to my question. About three months ago the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association of Canada suggested to the Canadian government that in return for financial help to Chrysler, we should ask for the sale of Chrysler parts manufacturing subsidiaries to Canadians, and that in addition we should ask for increased Canadian participation and ownership in Chrysler Canada. That would be one of the conditions for advancing any money to save Chrysler Corporation. If the Prime Minister is not aware whether this is a condition or not, would he be prepared to consider it as one of the conditions for any help?

Mr. Wilson: As I said to the hon. member earlier, that is one of the options which is open to us. We are looking at a variety of options. Our principal concern is to protect the jobs of the people in the Windsor community who are affected. As soon as we are able to put forward a specific package on completion of our negotiations with Chrysler Canada, we shall do so.

STUDY OF CANADA-U.S. AUTO PACT

Mr. John Evans (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the great concern over Canada's international deficit situation and the fact that the auto pact is about to add some $3.1 billion to that deficit, and bearing in mind that the Ontario minister of industry and tourism has announced that the province is preparing a study of the auto pact—which is a federal government agreement with the United States—is the right hon. gentleman prepared to enter into joint co-operative effort with Ontario to examine the auto pact which could have such a great bearing on the future of our economy?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): As the hon. member may know, the Government of Canada completed a study last year and so, I understand, did the government of Ontario. I would certainly be prepared to discuss the matter with officials of the Ontario government to determine whether they think there is any need for a new study, and whether they believe it would be useful for the federal government to participate in such a study. We would make our decision on the basis of the response.

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ENERGY

OUTFLOW OF FUNDS FROM OIL MULTINATIONALS—SITUATION WITH OTHER MULTINATIONALS

Mr. John Evans (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a further question to the Prime Minister, again dealing with the question of the deficit. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has indicated he intends to bring in the multinational oil companies to look into the outflow of funds which was announced on Friday in a report from his department.

Would the Prime Minister agree to involve himself in these discussions, and would he be prepared to pursue the matter further by inquiring whether other multinational corporations might be behaving in a similar way by allowing money to flow out of Canada?

[Mr. Roy (Beauce).]