

Aid car industry - Jelinek

Haltom MP Otto Jelinek was told Monday that an announcement would be made soon concerning special loan guarantees and financial assistance to auto parts companies which would allow them to take advantage of new opportunities and build parts for the new generation of automotive technology.

Liberal Trade and Commerce Minister Herb Gray told the veteran MP that he is working actively in the interest of auto workers throughout the country and said financial assistance to the auto parts companies is a very important priority.

Mr. Jelinek suggested in the Commons during the daily question period that the government has done little to assist the troubled automotive industry "other than the bungled up financial aid to the Chrysler Corporation which is taking far too long".

Mr. Gray claimed he has already begun specific and concrete action. Talks have been held with presidents of the major auto manufacturers and U.S. trade officials.

Mr. Jelinek dismissed the minister's claim and said "there has been no action just hot air". He claimed an estimated 22,000 Canadians within the automotive industry are now out of a job or soon will be.

Mr. Jelinek suggested that the government consider removing temporarily the nine per cent excise tax on North American autos "to stimulate this ailing industry and reduce the number of layoffs expected to take place".

Locals at Baha'i meeting

Herald Spectator
Finding a way of living together helpfully and in harmony despite all our differences in culture, race and backgrounds is Canada's greatest challenge, and one that is well understood by the members of the Baha'i Faith, to whom the building of such a unified community is a single-minded goal.

How well they are succeeding was seen April 24-26 when faithful from across Canada gathered for the 32nd Annual Canadian Baha'i Convention at the Holiday Inn in Vancouver.

Isabelle Weaver, from Haltom Hills, was one of the 171 delegates elected at regional conventions earlier in the year and who elected the new National Spiritual Assembly, a nine-member body responsible for the direction of the affairs of the Faith at the national level.

In recent years, membership in the Baha'i Faith has increased markedly among several groups of Canadians: in Quebec, where the first Baha'i group was formed over 60 years ago, among the black community in Nova Scotia, Sikhs here in British Columbia, and to a large extent among the native peoples, adding to the already varied composition of its communities. Currently, 80 of the more than 320 local Spiritual Assemblies, the community level of the Faith's organization, are on native reserves.

The drive for further diversification was among the topics of consultation. Another was the recurrence of persecution of the Baha'i Faith in Iran. The Faith was founded there 137 years ago by Baha'u'llah (a title meaning the "Glory of God"), who upheld the truth of all existing religions. The teachings of each, he explained, met the imperative requirements of the age in which they appeared.

The most urgent need for our age, he said, is the establishment of the unity of the entire human race. This concept of the "progressive revelation" of spiritual truth met with violent resistance from the Muslim clergy, who claimed finally for the revelation of Muhammad. These issues and others were discussed in the context of the new Seven year Plan of expansion of the Faith, in which the Canadian Baha'i community plays a major role.

The steady growth that has established the Faith in over 1,600 localities in Canada has been the result of such plans. They proceed from the impulse originating from the visit to Montreal in 1912 of Abdu'l-Baha, the son of Baha'u'llah. His "Tablets of the Divine Plan" have been the spiritual charter upon which the Baha'is around the world have set forth to build communities characterized by their "unity in diversity". Thus far world-wide, such communities are in the process of being established in over 100,000 localities.

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