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Automotive Industry

Ms. Ruby Dhalla (Brampton—Springdale, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, Canadians are losing their jobs in the auto sector. They are struggling to make their mortgage payments, to put food on the table and to pay their bills. Auto workers, like Randy and Patricia in Brampton, are crying for help but they have received nothing from the Conservative government.

On December 22, the industry minister told Canadians that an audit of the auto sector would be conducted and completed in a few weeks. It is two months later, where is the audit, why is there such secrecy and why has there been no action? Why are the Conservatives asleep at the wheel while Canadians are losing their jobs?

Hon. Tony Clement (Minister of Industry, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. We have been active on this file since the very beginning, in fact since before the last government was sworn in, in terms of our auto innovation fund. We have been active with Chrysler, to which the hon. member referred and which is in her riding. We have been undergoing a series of reviews of its situation. It is a private company and it does have strategic information, as the hon. member should be aware of.

I should note that the former auto critic was made the ag critic. In *The Guelph Mercury* it was indicated that the reason he was changed was because there was no point anymore to--

The Speaker:

The hon. member for Brampton--Springdale.

Ms. Ruby Dhalla (Brampton—Springdale, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, the real question is: Where is the audit and why is there such secrecy?

Let us look at the Americans. They have President Obama who has brought together the best and the brightest minds to discuss an action plan for the U.S. auto sector. The Canadians are stuck with a Conservative government that operates in secrecy, in denial and falls asleep at the wheel while Canadians lose their jobs.

The U.S. struck a task force to develop solutions but our government adviser, Jim Arnett, resigned after less than three weeks.

When will the government provide the leadership, the action, the hope and a plan for those people who are losing their jobs?