

ployment Insurance Commission which may see to it that such discrepancies do not exist in the future.

In the meantime I can tell the Hon. Member that we are taking two steps. One is to ensure that the provinces concerned offer social security payments to Mr. Hawkins during the time he is in hospital. The second is to ensure Mr. Hawkins that, on his return to Newfoundland, he will be guaranteed work under the Canadians Jobs Strategy.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF BENEFITS

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to figure out what is going on here. If a man rushed into a burning building to save a child, he would receive the Governor General's Medal for bravery. This man does not want a medal. He wants the income back which he rightfully deserves. Given the fact that there was a problem with the operation and it is now Mr. Hawkins who is on the kidney dialysis machine in the General Hospital in Toronto, will the Minister use whatever discretion is required, either through Cabinet or not, to reinstate this man's benefits for the sake of compassion? Has the Government no compassion for the individual any more? What is going on? We want an answer and we want it now. This man is worried about his bills. He is worried about supporting his family now. He cannot get the \$620 from welfare.

● (1430)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not need any lessons in compassion from the Hon. Member.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: I say to the Hon. Member that the discretion which I am denied as a Minister under the Act is because his Government, when in office—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss MacDonald: —took away that type of discretion. I do not have it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: I also say to him that we will take steps to ensure that there is support for Mr. Hawkins, and work for him. I am not sure that when the Hon. Member's Party was in Government that it would have taken those steps.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

TRADE

ELIMINATION OF FOOTWEAR IMPORT QUOTAS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Does she remember the promise he made in Sherbrooke on May 4, 1984, when he was campaigning for election in which he said that a Conservative Government would not abolish the import quotas in the footwear and textile industries? Now that the Minister of International Trade has announced that the great majority of the affected quotas will be abolished, will the Prime Minister tell us why he has failed to keep the promise that he made when he was looking for the votes of the workers in the footwear industry?

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, as I have previously advised the House, there were no broken promises. We are not a Party of broken promises.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kelleher: Where and when quotas are required for the protection of the industry, we will keep them in place. That is exactly what we did. The tribunal said that they were required for children's and women's footwear and we kept them in place. The tribunal said that they were not required for the other classes of footwear and we took them off. Is the Hon. Member suggesting that where they are not required we should add another \$500 million cost to the consumers of the country? I say no.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Heap: Mr. Speaker, I hope to reply later to the Hon. Minister's question at a more appropriate time.

PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have a further question for the Prime Minister as to whether he has abandoned another of his Ministers who happens to be away on sick leave. I am referring to the Hon. Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion who said on this subject only in June of this year—

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Heap: —that what you were talking about then was saying—and he was referring to the removal of the quotas—there will be no footwear industry—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am in some difficulty because this is becoming quite a long preamble to the Hon. Member's supplementary question. Is there a question?