

Oral Questions

the Prime Minister is concerned that the plight of ordinary Canadians be understood and sympathized with, will he take some concrete action by firing an insensitive Governor of Bank of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I do not think the suggestion of the leader of the New Democratic Party is a very positive contribution to the future of the country. The governor is merely pointing out what everyone in the House really knows in his or her heart, that we cannot expect Canadians collectively to take out of the economy more than they are putting into it. Governor Bouey was not singling out the worker, certainly not the worker at the minimum wage, as the leader of the New Democratic Party suggested. He was telling Canadians—workers, businessmen, investors, Members of Parliament and everyone—

Mr. Broadbent: He mentioned the minimum wage.

Mr. Trudeau:—that we cannot expect to continue increasing our economic progress at the same rate as we did before the OPEC crisis, before the massive economic strife which has hit the western industrial world, or before the high unemployment which exists in Canada, but which is even higher in the United States to where capital is moving, to quote the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre. If we try to hide this from our elaboration of economic theories and remedies, we are misleading the Canadian people.

Some hon. Members: So what is new?

Mr. Trudeau: I am not doing that.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Not now.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: What about 14 cents a gallon and no wage and price controls?

Mr. Kempling: You are an expert.

Mr. Trudeau: Hon. members on the other side seem to think that everyone can keep up to inflation—all of us; Members of Parliament, workers, shareholders and so on. It is certain that if we all try to keep up to inflation, inflation will not come down; it will stay where it is or continue going up. We know that if we want to remain competitive with the other producers in the western industrialized world, we have to lower our costs, which we cannot do if we keep increasing our revenues and our profits.

• (1430)

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

FOOTWEAR—INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT
RECOMMENDED INCLUSION OF LEATHER SHOES IN GLOBAL
QUOTA

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. For the tenth time, Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the minister a question concerning an industry we still consider to be very important, namely the footwear industry. Once again, a number of hon. members have been reminded of this fact by the presence of industry and union representatives. The minister is aware that his policy is now causing the industry to lose 6,000 out of a total of 20,000 jobs. Could the minister inform us whether today, he would be able to announce a decision to include leather footwear in the global quota, as being the only way to ensure the survival of this industry? I do not want to hear about new programs. Could the minister tell us today, in the interests of the industry, whether he is prepared to include leather footwear in the global quota?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, a few weeks ago, I had a very useful meeting with spokesmen for the footwear industry and the union, and my cabinet and caucus colleagues have also had some very useful meetings. I have drawn the attention of my cabinet colleagues to the representations that were made, and we are now reviewing them. We are taking this very seriously, in the light of the present economic situation, since the economy is a factor, and not just the quota system as is claimed by spokesmen for the industry. Although my hon. friend does not want me to talk about new programs, I want to point out that we have established a major modernization program with a fund of \$17 million, which proves we have a real interest in the industry and its employees.

REQUEST THAT QUEBEC WORKERS BE REINSTATED

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): What the minister did not say is that several millions of these dollars will be allocated to retraining and pre-retirement pensions, which is, in fact, welfare in disguise. Can the minister give the industry and its thousands of workers, many of whom are employed in my own province and other areas in Canada, the assurance that he is prepared to ensure the survival of the industry and its 15,000 workers and thus enable the 6,000 employees who have lost their jobs to go back to the industry and make a living in Canada? That is the question which the minister has failed to answer with his temporary, stopgap measures.