

investors? I would not know. But it seems to me that this is a bad case for the member for Joliette to defend.

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister lets the House believe that I am defending a bad case but I think that many people in Quebec are seriously concerned about the effect of the unemployment rate. As current forecasts are very gloomy, more particularly in the province of Quebec, I am going to repeat my question.

Does the right hon. Prime Minister intend to go on trying to deceive the Canadian people, telling them that national unity will be achieved through the official languages rather than by restoring a sound economy, more particularly in Quebec?

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[English]

### INDUSTRY

#### GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PREVENT EROSION OF SECONDARY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, if he can take a minute to catch his breath. In view of the continuing and alarming increase in lay-offs in both the textile industry, particularly in Quebec, and in the electrical products industry in Ontario, as reported by the Department of Manpower and Immigration for the month of June, can the minister tell us what specific steps his department or the government is taking to identify the problem in order to prevent further erosion of our secondary manufacturing industry?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, as far as the textile industry is concerned, in November last we took some measures which are beginning to produce the anticipated effects. I met recently the industry people and the unions and they say that they are satisfied with the policies we adopted in this area.

As far as the electronics industry is concerned, the problem is very difficult to solve at the present time. We took special measures concerning the television industry and if the hon. member wants to raise another area of concern, I shall be pleased to see what we can do.

[English]

#### REASON FOR FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT INDUSTRY FROM FOREIGN COMPETITION

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, somehow the U.S.A. has been relatively successful in limiting the penetration of its domestic markets by foreign manufacturers. Could the minister indicate why the Canadian government has been notably less able to protect our Canadian industries and thereby preserve jobs for Canadians?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** I am very glad that the hon. gentleman raised that

### Oral Questions

question, but I would like him at the same time to tell his friends who are calling me on behalf of importers that I am on the right track in trying to protect domestic markets.

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### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### POLLUTION OF GREAT LAKES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO RECTIFY—SUGGESTED BANNING OF PHOSPHATES IN DETERGENTS

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. In view of the damning indictment by the Great Lakes Water Quality Board that the federal and Ontario governments are not taking effective anti-pollution measures on already known pollutants going into the Great Lakes, can the minister indicate to the House whether he is satisfied with the present state of our Great Lakes and whether he will make an urgent statement on motions this week stating what new initiatives he intends to take in co-operation with the Ontario government, since the 47 problem areas in the Great Lakes have shown almost no improvement?

● (1440)

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, of course I am not satisfied with the condition of the Great Lakes. That is one of the reasons we are having public hearings. We want to find out how the agreement which will follow the present five-year agreement should be reinforced and where possible improved upon. The report, to my knowledge, has not yet been made public, but in fairness, however, the hon. member should read the whole report because there is improvement in some areas. Obviously, in some cases until waste treatment plants come into operation, progress is going to be slow. However, these are being built in Canada and in the United States.

**Mr. Blackburn:** I would like to know where these improvements are taking place because the St. Lawrence today is just a sludge river. The Great Lakes Water Quality Board suggested in its annual report that one of the real problems in combating water pollution is the lack of adequate funds to analyse toxic pollutants. Will the minister undertake to ensure that sufficient funds are provided so that toxic pollutants can be detected and removed?

In addition, the board noted that Canada has taken no steps to restrict phosphorous to below 2.2 per cent in laundry detergent. As phosphorous is very harmful to water life will the minister consider a total ban on phosphorous in detergents?

**Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, obviously there is never enough money to do all the good things we would like to do, but the problem of toxic substances in water is one of the very high priorities of the environmental protection service of my department. We are giving that problem the priority it deserves. On the other hand, the hon. member is a