

*Textile Industry*

Industry, Trade and Commerce be established." Then, I give a list of the various duties of this Board.

I believe I should read the following paragraph:

• (2:30 p.m.)

[English]

Low-cost measures would, wherever possible, be applied as at present by means of voluntary restraint agreements. However, in cases of undue delay or when the problem does not lend itself to a negotiated solution, unilateral measures such as global import quotas might be applied. In order that adequate instruments in addition to the import surtax be available for such action, it is proposed that the Export and Import Permits Act be amended to permit unilateral imposition of import licensing quotas in cases of serious injury or the threat of injuries.

[Translation]

I then mention, Mr. Speaker, some financial support measures.

"We are also proposing to amend the existing General Adjustment Assistance Program that is, the GAAP, with a view to broadening its coverage with respect to the textile and clothing industries."

As regards the labour sector, under this same title of financial support, I state: "Under certain conditions, where the existing programs of the Department of Manpower and Immigration cannot meet adequately adjustment needs of the affected workers, additional financial assistance will be provided under a program to be developed by the Department of Labour."

I go on to say under the heading of "Technical and Promotional Support": "The government will establish Development and Productivity Centres for the textile and for the clothing industries. A fashion/design assistance program has already been announced." I may add that it was very well received.

And my remarks are drawing to a close, as they should. Pending the development of new mechanisms, including the Textile Review Board, and pending the passage of the proposed legislative amendments, all existing restraint arrangements will remain in full force and effect, and the government will use all the currently available instruments to begin the implementation of the new textile policy.

In this connection, I wish to inform the House that the government is giving urgent

[Mr. Pepin.]

consideration to the critical situation that has developed with respect to imports of shirts from low-cost suppliers.

Mr. Speaker, I shall say to conclude that the success of this policy will depend in large measure on the enterprise and sustained efforts of the industry and on the continued co-operation of management, workers and government. I am certain that this will be forthcoming.

Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 41 (2), I wish to table copies in both official languages of a document about the textile policy.

[English]

**Mr. Stanfield:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I rise not to complain about the length of the minister's statement in view of the importance of the subject; I simply wish to note that he complained he could not hold the attention of all his followers while he made this lengthy statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for South Western Nova.

[Translation]

**Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps some hon. members are wondering why I am acting as spokesman for my party and not the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard), since he has studied in depth the problem of textiles. It is merely because he was not here at noon to have a look at the statement. I hope that in taking his place, I shall prove equal to the situation.

For the last two years, several hon. members have urged the minister to make such a statement, but he always smiled while replying: "Soon". At last, he has made that statement.

The minister almost apologized to the House for making a long statement. I am told that it took seven years to come up with this 18-page review. He says that the program and the measures which he has described will be elaborated on in more detail by the departments concerned as soon as possible. Again we will have to wait before there is action. He talks about legislation. I would have hoped that the legislation he proposes would be brought before the House today. There is no hope of such legislation being put through in the present session. We will have to wait another two or three years before the legislation he speaks of becomes effective.