

Petitions

as the Western Grain Stabilization Program and the Crop Insurance Program, which are so desperately needed in western Canada, will not be bargained away in the free trade negotiations with the United States?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, part of the reason we are suffering such a tight situation in the agricultural industry today is because of the fact that for many years the previous Government completely and totally ignored the agri-food industry year after year, after year.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Two wrongs do not make a right.

Mr. Wise: I hope the Hon. Member would want to take advantage of an opportunity, if the opportunity presents itself, to attempt to eliminate some of the border irritants which have gone on and on and which impact detrimentally on Canadian agriculture. I think that he would want to take advantage of that opportunity.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

CLOSING OF TWO DOMINION TEXTILE PLANTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and concerns the closing of the two Dominion Textile Plants in Saint-John and in Valleyfield, resulting in the loss of 550 jobs.

In view of the investment by the Canadian taxpayers in these plants, will these decisions of Dominion Textile cause the Government to stop immediately all additional payments to Dominion Textile by the Canadian Industrial Renewal Board and will the Minister immediately undertake an in-depth examination of the management of the grants received by Dominion Textile?

● (1500)

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): As the Hon. Member knows, that question was raised earlier. It is under review by the Government.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: No.

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Monday, Septem-

ber 23, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Deputy Speaker, Marcel Danis, the Hon. Ramon John Hnatyshyn, the Hon. Robert de Cotret, the Hon. Herb Gray, the Hon. Robert Howie, Gerry St. Germain, the Hon. André Ouellet and Ian Deans have been appointed to act with the Speaker of the House as members of the Board of Internal Economy for the purposes and under the provisions of Chapter 39 of the Statutes of Canada, 1985, entitled An Act to Amend the House of Commons Act.

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PRIVILEGE

DRAFT DOCUMENT—TASK FORCE ON FREE TRADE

Mr. Speaker: I am in receipt of a Notice of a Question of Privilege from the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps).

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I have written to you on a question of privilege and I have raised it at the earliest possible opportunity.

It came to my attention recently that there is in existence a Government document, supposedly a draft document, produced in September of 1985 by the Communications Task Force on Free Trade appointed by the Prime Minister's Office, which violates my privileges as a Member of Parliament.

On page 8 of the document, it states, and I quote:

Members whose ridings can be expected to benefit from the initiative will likely be under a complicated and conflicting set of pressures. These can be productively exploited.

The document continues and specifically targets myself for attention, and I quote:

As examples . . . Sheila Copps, whose Hamilton, Ontario riding has the steel industry to represent—

I believe this to be a violation of my privileges as a Member of Parliament and draw to your attention to Beauchene's Fifth Edition, Citation 67 and Citation 71. Citation 67 states, and I quote:

It is generally accepted that any threat to a Member, attempting to influence his vote or his actions as a Member, is a breach of privilege.

Citation 71 states, and I quote:

Direct threats which attempt to influence Members' actions in the House are undoubtedly breaches of privilege.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, by stating that if you find a *prima facie* breach of privilege, I am prepared to move the necessary motion.