

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments. The Hon. Member for Richmond-Wolfe (Mr. Tardif).

Mr. Tardif: Mr. Speaker, I listened with much interest and attention to the very academic and philosophical speech of my colleague across the floor. I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that I would probably have appreciated the meaning and content of his presentation had it been made in a university environment.

But that is not the problem, Mr. Speaker. The problem is that women and men who have been working for 10, 15 or 20 years in the footwear industry will lose their jobs in the months ahead. That is the problem, Mr. Speaker. And none of the speakers across the aisle has really explained how those so-called avant-garde measures will be implemented.

How would those people get another job and if they did, in what areas? My colleague opposite said a moment ago that the Liberal Government itself had commissioned this tribunal to study the situation but I will remind him, Mr. Speaker, that under the previous Government, the same tribunal made recommendations at one time and the Liberal Government of the day had the courage to make a decision not on the basis of philosophical or economic interests, but taking into account what Canada needs at the present time, namely jobs. I want to ask you this: What do you tell those men and women who, because of this devastating move, will lose their jobs—

Mr. La Salle: It has not been proven yet.

Mr. Tardif: —in about a year or a year and a half? The Hon. Member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) has a word to say. I believed him to be a strong supporter of the footwear industry. I am surprised that he does not have more to say in this regard. Answer my question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Dollard (Mr. Weiner).

[English]

Mr. Weiner: I will tell you how I will respond to my constituents and the citizens of Quebec and Canada. Three hundred thousand new jobs have been created this year and over 51,000 are in Quebec. Retail sales are up 8 per cent. New manufacturing orders are up 10 per cent. Look at the confidence in the country. Consumer spending is up. Retail sales in August were up 13 per cent as compared to a year ago. Motor vehicle sales are up 27 per cent. In my own community, Dollard des Ormeaux, building permits are going like hotcakes. In the first seven months of 1985 the value of building permits was up by 17 per cent, manufacturing orders were way up and planned capital investment in manufacturing was up.

That is what I am prepared to say. The Government is going to continue creating jobs and ensuring that we put Canadians back to work.

Supply

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Hon. Member. During his comments he lectured members of my Party suggesting that we are not interested in the consumers because we asked questions about what the Government is proposing to do and that we are not interested in the welfare of people in Third World countries. Nothing could be further from the truth, Mr. Speaker. Our Party has always—

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Been on every side of every question.

Mr. Orlikow: —supported programs to help people in the underdeveloped countries. We are, of course, aware of the extra cost to consumers.

I could support what the Government is proposing if I did not know what is actually happening in the real world. In the real world in all of the industrialized countries the shoe, clothing, and textile industries have been partially destroyed by increasing exports from countries in which the wage rates are a fraction of what they have been in the industrialized countries. The process of destroying those industries is continuing.

It may be, in a very theoretical way, that that is something which we cannot stop. However, if there is going to be a marked reduction in the number of people in Canada working in the shoe, clothing, and textile industries, I want to remind the Hon. Member that a substantial majority of the people who will lose their jobs live and work in his Province of Quebec. They are not all in Montreal. Many of them live and work in towns and cities in Quebec in which the shoe, clothing or textile industry is the only industry. What I have indicated to the Member for Dollard (Mr. Weiner) has been happening and will continue to happen. A city like Montreal, which the Hon. Member represents, or a city like Winnipeg which I represent, have a variety of industries to which people can move when a particular industry fails.

● (1750)

I am sure that in the next year we will be dealing with the same problems in the clothing industry and textile industry. What plans does the Government have for new industries for those companies which will have to shut down because they cannot compete with imports from low-wage countries? What plans does it have for new companies or for retraining workers?

If the Government could show us that it has an industrial strategy that will deal with these problems, then we would not need this debate and could agree with what the Government is proposing.

Mr. Weiner: Mr. Speaker, I have had the honour and privilege to serve as Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. For much of this year we have been concerned with Canadians who were threatened by protectionist measures in the United States. We heard from berry producers, the steel industry, the lumber industry and hog producers. Jobs in those industries were being threatened in