

## INDUSTRY

## TEXTILES—PROPOSED STUDY OF INDUSTRY AND APPOINTMENT OF MR. PEPIN TO HELP STABILIZE

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of widespread reservations, especially by bodies such as the Economic Council of Canada, about the present means to deal with the textile industry and bring stabilization, which is being greeted with some concern, is the minister considering any in-depth study of the industry either by his own department by bringing in outside people in the form of a task force?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I believe we had no other alternative in the circumstances. Of course, I read the comments made by the Economic Council of Canada where they say they would prefer it if we took other actions but they do not know which. After analyzing the situation in the textile industry in Canada in the last few years, I am happy to report to the House that it has improved and modernized itself greatly since 1970, but it still needs some assistance. That is why I decided to give Canadian manufacturers at least 55 per cent of the market and let the remaining 45 per cent to imports. No other industrialized country is as generous as Canada in matters of imports.

● (1500)

[English]

**Mr. Ritchie:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the present head of the AIB has indicated his willingness to move, and as he was responsible for the legislation of 1970, is the minister considering that Mr. Pepin might serve in some capacity to help bring more stability to this industry?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I take good note of the hon. member's recommendation concerning Mr. Pepin.

\* \* \*

[English]

## OLYMPIC GAMES

## AMOUNT OF UNSOLD COINS—GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR DISPOSAL

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Supply and Services I should like to pose a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who is in a position to shed some light on this subject. In view of the unfortunate shortfall in respect of the projected sales of Olympic coins, could the minister advise the House what the total overrun amounts to and what the government intends to do with the large quantities of unsold coins now on hand?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to

## Oral Questions

give specific information to the hon. member, but I will pass the question on to my colleague the Minister of Supply and Services.

**Mr. Jelinek:** Mr. Speaker, may I address a supplementary question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Supply and Services. I wonder whether the parliamentary secretary could confirm the fact that the overrun of unsold Olympic coins is in the neighbourhood of 60 per cent to 70 per cent of the \$450 million which were expected to be sold, and who will bear the cost of liquidating these coins? Would the parliamentary secretary also explain the statements made by Mr. Garot Jackobsen, the assistant master of the Mint, to the effect that no melting of the coins is in fact taking place?

**Mr. Rod Blaker (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, I have no information on that. I doubt that the premises of the first part of the question are correct; as for the other two points, I will communicate with the minister and the information will be provided to the hon. member.

\* \* \*

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## LOCATION OF PARACHUTE MAINTENANCE CENTRE IN RELATION TO AIRBORNE SCHOOL—POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF AIRBORNE SCHOOL FROM EDMONTON

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. The minister informed us last week that he was moving the Canadian forces parachute maintenance depot from Edmonton. As the Canadian airborne centre, which gives initial and advance training to all parachutists, is apparently to remain in Edmonton, can the minister confirm that the parachutes used by the airborne school—representing 40 per cent of the total—will have to be sent down here to be repacked after each jump?

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman is correct in that the airborne school does do the majority of the jumping. The airborne regiment does much less than the others, so that the packing facility and the airborne facility have to be together. That is why, in speaking to the hon. member for Edmonton Centre the other day, I said that any moves have to be phased so that the packing facility and the school facility are close at hand.

It is not a new phenomenon. When the airborne school was at Shilo, I believe it was, and at Rivers, chutes had to be returned for packing to one central depot, which is usually associated with the school where most of the repacking is done. As I pointed out to the hon. gentleman from Edmonton Centre, the chutes are repacked before the troops jump.

**Mr. McKinnon:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister now has the situation hopelessly confused. Last week he said that the depot was moving down here, and now