

*Oral Questions*

that situation changes, we will act to help them leave South Yemen.

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[Translation]

**TEXTILES AND CLOTHING****IMPACT OF FREE TRADE WITH UNITED STATES**

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

We know that his department has prepared special studies on how free trade with the United States would affect the clothing and textiles industry.

Does the Minister intend to release these studies and the findings on the impact that free trade with the United States will have on Quebec workers?

[English]

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, when I saw the Member rise and say he had a question for me, I thought he was going to comment on the 82,000 jobs that were created in the province of Quebec during 1985.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** You really thought that, did you?

**Mr. Stevens:** In answer to the specific question finally asked by the Hon. Member, I would like to inform him first that there is no special report that he refers to in our Department.

As far as the textile and clothing industry is concerned, it is something we have had under review. With the multifibre negotiations coming up this summer, we feel that Canada's negotiation posture must be identified as one that will ensure the jobs now being shared by Canadians in the textile and clothing industry will, in fact, continue.

**Mr. Axworthy:** The Minister, Mr. Speaker, I know has been absent for a long time but his Department has prepared sectoral studies on the impact of free trade on the textile and clothing industry.

**MINISTER'S POSITION**

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister an important supplementary. Last May in an interview with *The Financial Post* he indicated that it was his intention in industries, such as textiles—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Axworthy:** —to guarantee 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the domestic market—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member knows that I am trying not to allow—

**Mr. Axworthy:** —I am asking a supplementary.

**Some Hon. Members:** Sit down.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order. I am perfectly happy to let the Member put his supplementary but I am trying not to allow preambles to supplementaries. Just a question, please.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Speaker, does the Minister intend to live up to the commitment he made last May to preserve 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the domestic market in textiles for Canadian manufacturers?

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is, of course, taking something completely out of context. The reference he is making was a reference that I made in the article he has referred to in the context of the tremendous penetration which the previous Government allowed in the textile and clothing industry in Canada from foreign importation.

**Mr. Broadbent:** What are you going to do about it?

**Mr. Stevens:** It jumped 20 per cent, 25 per cent a year. What the Member is now referring to is a comment I made that I thought the textile and clothing industry should be allowed to enjoy a fair share of the Canadian market in relation to the total domestic product.

**Mr. Axworthy:** That is not what you said.

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**INSURANCE****REQUEST FOR FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL INQUIRY**

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance. This morning the Minister met with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities who came to her asking for federal leadership in what is a national crisis in the insurance industry.

Will the Minister indicate whether she is supportive of the request to have a full federal-provincial inquiry into the state of the insurance industry as requested by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, as I told the Association, at this stage nothing is off the table if it helps us reach a solution.

We agreed, and I think they announced later at their press conference, to push forward with a co-operative investigation by the industry and by the Superintendent of Insurance, spearheaded actually by the Association of Canadian Municipalities, so that we can put a focus on exactly what the problem is.