

other countries, and that he would undertake to do his best in negotiations with Congress.

**An hon. Member:** He said that a year ago.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I understand that I have been asked about Versailles, not about Ottawa. He undertook to do his best to achieve an agreement with Congress which would have the effect of reducing the deficit and therefore bringing inflation, meaning the rate of interest, down.

#### REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT TAKE ACTION

**Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge):** Madam Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. What is his judgment and that of his government on the success of the United States in bringing interest rates down? Will that affect Canadian policy and will the government act unilaterally to peg interest rates?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member knows, as I do, what has happened between the administration and the Congress of the United States. They have apparently reached some compromise which might be agreed to by Congress, but it is too early to say whether the House of Representatives will be followed by agreement in the Senate. We should know that in a few days.

\* \* \*

● (1430)

#### INDUSTRY

##### FOOTWEAR—REQUEST THAT IMPORT QUOTA DECISION BE REVERSED

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Prime Minister, who knows there are one and a quarter million people out of work in Canada at the present time. Would he inform the House whether he is willing to use his good offices with the appropriate ministers to reverse their decision with respect to footwear quotas, and thereby give work to at least 7,000 people who have been needlessly thrown out of work as a result of his government's action?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I understood the hon. member's colleague, the hon. member from Edmonton, to advocate exactly the contrary, that we should have no quotas or any form of restriction on imports. So perhaps this is an area again where the Conservative Party—

**Mr. Clark:** What is your policy, Prime Minister?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, I am trying to answer a question from the opposition. The Leader of the Opposition asks me what my policy is. I say we have two different policies from his own members.

**Mr. Clark:** What is your policy?

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, our policy has been announced in this House. Representations have been made to the government, the Minister of State for International Trade has met with representatives of that industry, and we are considering the representations.

**Mr. Stevens:** Madam Speaker, those people out of work have been hearing that answer for more than nine or ten weeks because of the government's inactivity.

\* \* \*

#### THE ECONOMY

##### EXCHANGE VALUE OF DOLLAR

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, as the Prime Minister undoubtedly knows, the dollar has now fallen to 78.29 cents in relation to the American dollar, approximately six cents below where it was when the government indicated it would not like to see it fall any further. Would the Prime Minister inform the House why the Canadian dollar is so much less desirable than the American dollar at the present time in the eyes of foreign investors, and is it true that the six cents decline is also going to contribute to more inflation in this country?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I do not recall if the hon. member was in the House yesterday, but I gave quite detailed figures indicating that in the eyes of investors all over the world—

**Mr. Stevens:** In relation to the American dollar?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, in relation to the American dollar, all currencies of major countries—

**Mr. Stevens:** Ours has fallen. Why?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, if the hon. member needs a lesson in economics, this is not the place for me to give it to him.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### INQUIRY RESPECTING MEASURES GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO TAKE TO HELP LEBANON

**Mr. Pierre Gimaiel (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and it concerns the situation in Lebanon. As a result of the war in Lebanon and the battles being fought by Israel and Syria within the territory of a neutral country, there are many Lebanese who have lost everything they own and are now wandering the streets of Lebanon. Could the minister inform the House what the Canadian government intends to do