

position to guarantee the exact job possibilities several months from now in any particular industry.

I would contradict the hon. member in his understanding of the situation. He is of the view that what happens in the rest of the world does not affect Canada. I travelled in the west last week, both to Calgary and Vancouver. I found that the people there very clearly understood that the ability of Canadian exporters to sell in markets abroad depended upon the recovery in other countries. There is no possibility of improving the situation of certain exporting industries until a recovery, for example, takes place in the United States. The hon. member, with all his devotion to Canada, which I share, must understand that we trade and sell abroad, and when markets weaken there they affect us and the jobs in our country.

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PIPELINES

DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION OF NORMAN WELLS PROJECT

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Since he has held this portfolio for northern development, development in the north is at an all-time low. For example, the delays he has imposed on the Norman Wells oil field and pipeline project, have resulted in massive unemployment in my constituency in the north. Not only that, he is directly responsible for hundreds of steel workers being laid off in his own constituency in Hamilton because of this. I want to know when he will take the shackles off this project and let it proceed quickly, forthwith?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, the hon. member must be either negligent or totally unaware of the majority sentiment in the north which does not agree with him at all. The fact of the matter is that the majority of northerners, certainly all the native leadership and the northwest territorial government applauded the decision when I approved Norman Wells and imposed a two-year delay. It was the first time that the companies, the Northwest Territorial government, the leadership of the natives and a majority of the native people who make up a majority of the population of the Northwest Territories ever came to an over-all consensus that this project should be approved in the way it was approved. I would suggest that the hon. member, who represents half of that territory, get in touch with the majority of his constituents.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

INQUIRY RESPECTING MEASURES TO ASSIST FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY

Mr. Normand Lapointe (Beauce): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Industry, Trade

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and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In his absence, I will put it to the minister's parliamentary secretary, the hon. member for Manicouagan.

Since November 24 last year, import quotas on leather footwear have been removed, and according to representatives of the footwear industry in my riding whom I met yesterday, this has caused serious damage to the Canadian footwear industry. Also on November 24, the Canadian Industrial Renewal Board announced that a special budget of \$17 million would be set aside for the footwear industry, a budget which is now proving to be inadequate—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Does the hon. member have a question? If he does, I would like him to ask it now.

Mr. Lapointe (Beauce): My question is whether the parliamentary secretary could ask the minister whether the CIRB or any other body will soon be announcing additional measures to help the Canadian footwear industry.

Mr. André Maltais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I wish to thank the hon. member for Beauce for his question. Yesterday, a number of cabinet ministers and myself met with Mr. Maheu, the president of the Shoe Manufacturers Association of Canada and the government officials responsible for analysing this policy. We listened with great interest to the industry's complaints, and we are already looking into what different or additional measures could be taken to help the manufacturers, while also serving the Canadian consumer.

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[English]

RAILWAYS

CROWS NEST PASS RATE—OPPOSITION TO CHANGE

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. I am sure you are aware, Madam Speaker, that the Minister of Transport and the Prime Minister have been saying that there is a consensus for changing the Crow in western Canada. I have before me a confidential briefing book which was given to the Prime Minister prior to his visit to Saskatchewan on March 19. I find in this confidential document that the Prime Minister's staff say that there is tremendous opposition to changing the Crow on the prairies. They say, among other things, that "the mood of the rural community in the province is generally one of anxiety and indignation". In light of that, will the Minister of Transport tell us why he is misleading the Canadian people by saying that there is a consensus for changing the Crow? Why is he so intent on tearing this country apart by putting one region against the other?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, consensus is always very difficult to assess.

Mr. Epp: Especially when it is not there.