

Government Organization

himself a union leader. Maybe he could support the request I have been making for three years now to the labour unions of the country. I am asking for a truce or a kind of moratory which would enable the government to stabilize prices. The worker and the wage-earner would be the first to benefit. In fact, union members are now asking their leaders to do more, because some of them seem to have lost all sense of responsibility. This does not help solve problems such as the one under discussion.

● (4:40 p.m.)

I have summed up what is going for the benefit of the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe, because he told me he knew—

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I have not learned anything from the hon. member for Trois-Rivières that I did not know before.

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, we shall have to tell him again probably for the fourth time, so that he will stop—

Mr. Ricard: May I ask a question to the hon. member?

Mr. Mongrain: I shall be pleased to hear the hon. member's question.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member for Trois-Rivières kindly explain to us why imports are ever increasing while our production keeps decreasing?

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, as concerns the question of the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe, I know that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce is getting ready to answer it. He will surely put forward many more arguments, statistics and facts than I could provide myself during the few remaining minutes at my disposal.

Mr. Ricard: That is exactly what I asked him to do.

Mr. Mongrain: The only difference between the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe is that the minister does not talk through his hat but waits until he has gathered all necessary information. He will have it presently. I am not enough in the government's confidence to set a date but I know that he will act soon. Then, the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe will obtain more statistics, facts and arguments than he wants.

[Mr. Mongrain.]

Mr. Ricard: Would the hon. member question the figures I have just given and which were given to me by the Textile Workers Union of America? Is this what the hon. member wants?

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, I find that my hon. friend has not understood anything. I have spoken during 20 minutes and he has not understood me. He wants me to question some figures when I told him that we know there are imports. We also know there are many other related problems and that the solution is not as simple as the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe imagines.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I have not suggested any solution, I merely asked for the co-operation of the minister.

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, I feel I am losing my time trying to win the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe over to my cause. Then, I shall speak for those who want to understand, because there are none so deaf as those that will not hear.

I hasten to pass on to the second matter I want to deal with this afternoon: tourism. I was very happy to read the statement made last night by the Minister of Industry and Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin), as reported in *Hansard*, on page 6493, and I quote:

I should like to say a few words on tourism, for which the new department will also be responsible and which earns \$1 billion a year for our balance of payments.

This is one of the most readily profitable industries that could be promoted in Canada. Like many others, I am most happy to see that the minister is concerned with this aspect of the Canadian industry.

I go on reading:

The intended departmental approach to the development of our tourist industries and the expansion of Canadian income from tourism also reflects an integrated approach, although these activities are to be identified as a separate program within the new department.

The Office of Tourism will comprise, first, the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, the promotional arm with particular responsibilities for attracting visitors to Canada. It has 24 offices abroad. The Office of Tourism will also comprise a branch devoted to the study of our domestic travel industry and its needs for growth and development to meet the requirements of the highly competitive international travel market; all this, of course, in the closest possible co-operation with the industry, the provinces and other federal departments whose activities are relevant to the development of the tourist attractions and facilities of Canada. Here again, the international and the domestic will be closely matched, closely linked.