

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the proposal is very fair, and it is widely regarded as being fair. I would ask the Hon. Member, over the course of the summer, to spend some time understanding the financial position of the Government. The reason some of these changes had to be made is because of the mess in which the Liberal Party left the Government of Canada. The previous Government had 15 years of profligate spending which started when the Leader of the Opposition was the Minister of Finance in 1974-75. At that time government spending increased by 30 per cent. That is when the problems started, and that is why we have to take these measures.

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

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[Translation]

### CLOTHING INDUSTRY

#### INQUIRY IF GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO START EMERGENCY ACTION PROGRAMS

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. My consultations this week with the unions and employers of the clothing industry in Montreal indicate that the Government has done nothing to support this industry in spite of the 100,000 jobs threatened by the creation of third world cottage industries.

Is the Minister willing to initiate an urgent action program to support this industry based on commitments by the major retailers to guarantee at least 60 per cent Canadian content in their clothing sales?

[English]

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. I would like to assure him that the Government of Canada is quite concerned with respect to the plight of the clothing and textile industries in Canada at the present time. The situation is actively under review, and I believe that we will be able to come to a position very shortly. I am very pleased that I have been able to talk to both textile representatives and to clothing and apparel representatives. If the Hon. Member would like to be more specific on how we could secure that 60 per cent portion to which he referred, naturally we would be interested in any representations which he would like to make.

#### LABOUR ADJUSTMENT BENEFITS PROGRAM

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, the people in Montreal to whom I have spoken—employers and unionists—feel frozen out of the negotiation.

My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Labour. In view of the problems within the textile industry,

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will the Minister commit himself and his Department to renew the Labour Adjustment Benefits Program for textile workers, clothing workers, and footwear workers, which is due to expire in August and about which, again, the workers involved have said that there has not been consultation—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question is very long.

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that I have met with both union and management representatives in the textile and clothing industries. As he is aware, the Labour Adjustment Benefits Program is due to be reviewed. The expiry date of that program is August 18, and the Cabinet is considering the review. In due course an announcement will be made.

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● (1150)

### PUBLIC WORKS

#### CANADA PLACE PROJECT IN EDMONTON

**Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. Six months ago Edmonton Members of Parliament recommended the Canada Place Project go ahead. The Minister's Department concurred. But to date nothing has happened. Hundreds of workers are waiting to work. Would the Minister tell the House why construction has not begun, and who is holding up the project?

[Translation]

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have done a lot in six months when we consider the importance of this project and the interest shown by Members of Parliament from the Edmonton region. If I may reassure the Hon. Member, we had anticipated to begin work during the summer, and as far as I know, there is every reason to believe that the work can begin as expected. However, in view of the scope of this project and its importance for construction workers, there are still a few details to finalize between the developer and the regional Public Works office in Edmonton. Things are going very well. Work will begin and the project will go forward, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

### FISHERIES

#### APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I want to return to the Prime Minister with questions about the Moores-Doucet project. The Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River asked a question which gave the Prime Minister the opportunity to define the legitimate role of a lobbyist. I would remind him that that is not what happened in this case. The Minister