

REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF IMPORT QUOTAS ON
LEATHER FOOTWEAR

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Madam Speaker, having in mind the Anti-Dumping Tribunal's warning that imports of leather footwear from low-wage countries compete directly—and this was over a year ago—in the middle-range points of the Canadian footwear market to which the Canadian producers direct about 90 per cent of their product, will the minister assure this House that he will not rely on such an ineffective method as counting alone for solving the problem presently facing the footwear industry, and will he encourage his colleagues to reinstate the quotas on leather footwear before that industry is entirely destroyed?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, my recollection about the Anti-Dumping Tribunal is that they found our footwear industry could meet competition from developed countries, including state-trading countries. These are the major sources of imports of leather footwear. In addition to the quota system which we announced last fall, we also created a \$17 million fund to assist in the modernization and upgrading of our industry. In any event, we are actively studying and reviewing representations from all elements of the industry, and have been doing so since the announcement of the policy. When that review is completed, we will announce any decisions we have to make as a result of the review.

LOSS OF JOBS FOLLOWING REMOVAL OF QUOTA

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Madam Speaker, since the minister will not answer my questions about the surveillance method or the quotas, and since he has promised for three months to make an announcement, which he has not done, will he now say whether he is aware of the fact that we have already lost one third of the jobs in Canada's leather footwear manufacturing industry since he removed the quotas? Will he say whether he seriously intends to take action now to defend the remaining 14,000 jobs?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, we are certainly interested in the well-being of the industry, including the workers in it. That is why we continue to have a quota on canvas footwear and other forms of non-leather footwear, and why we created the modernization fund of which I just spoke. There is a debate about the number of jobs in the industry at the present time as to the extent to which they are affected by the economy as a whole or whether they are affected by increased imports. This matter is being actively looked at by cabinet. The matter is one for decision by cabinet and any decision will be announced as soon as possible.

Oral Questions

METRIC CONVERSION

THREAT OF PROSECUTION OF GROCERY STORE OWNERS

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Yesterday I was advised that several owners and operators of small grocery stores in Ontario received notification from the regional manager of the weights and measures division of Consumer and Corporate Affairs that officials intend to prosecute them and that they face fines of up to \$1,000 and/or jail terms of up to six months, for using pounds rather than kilograms. Since the minister is responsible for the weights and measures division of his department, can he tell this House why that division is not following the minister's statement made in the House last Friday that he will recommend exempting small retailers from compulsory metrication?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I indicated I was going to discuss this policy with the industry. The discussion has not yet taken place. Therefore the policy currently being followed is one that was established and approved by Parliament in 1976-77, and later implemented as set out in the legislation at the time through regulations.

Mr. Domm: So much for the word of the minister.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER CONSULT WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, the minister undertook on Friday to consult the industrial sector committee to which he just referred. I advised the minister that 25 per cent of those people are from foreign manufacturers of weigh scales and another 25 per cent are from his ministry and that of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can the minister assure the House at this time that the people he consults about this proposal will be the people affected, the small business sector, not those who manufacture foreign-made weigh scales and members of his own ministry and that of Industry, Trade and Commerce?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, as usual the hon. member's questions are misleading and based on wrong facts. I assure him that the consultation that will take place will truly be with the people concerned. The hon. member's remarks indicate the spirit of negativism which characterizes him.

CASE OF KINGSTON COUPLE

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, I listened very carefully to the answer to the first question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I want to bring to his attention a specific example, the case of a couple in Kingston, Mr. and Mrs. Len Menikefs, hard-working people who have the respect of the community. They have been suddenly confronted with the idea that they may be thrown