

*Oral Questions***TRADE****TEXTILE IMPORT QUOTAS—REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF GARMENTS HELD IN CUSTOMS**

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I should first like to commend him for the measures he adopted some time ago in limiting garment importation quotas in Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alkenbrack: We still have some minor problems in this connection. There are some small shipments of rental uniforms consigned to local retailers now trapped in customs. These retailers have complained to me that they cannot get these shipments out of customs. The condition arose as a result of the short notice the minister had to give. They have asked if these shipments could be released by customs. They were imported into Canada and are being held. Some of the shipments were made on December 1, the very day that the limitation went into effect.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we have made two minor changes to this policy, first of all to allow the entry without any import permit for all clothings which were in transit the day the policy was announced on November 29, and, last Friday, we have allowed the same thing with regard to goods which were in transit between November 29 and last Friday and whose value did not exceed \$10,000. I hope those two exemptions will help resolve the problem the hon. member mentioned, and I thank him for supporting the policy we have announced.

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[English]

CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**GOVERNMENT METHOD OF INFLUENCING POLICY—STEPS TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT'S SHAREHOLDING**

Mr. Sinclair Steven (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. As Mr. Benson, the minister of finance when the CDC legislation was introduced in this House on February 22, 1971, stated, "the government . . . will always be in a position to exercise the degree of influence on the over-all policies of the corporation which would be appropriate to its shareholding at any particular time", will the minister indicate in practice how this influence has been exercised on the over-all policies of the CDC, and to what extent is he informed of CDC transactions or proposed transactions?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in terms of over-all policies, I would have to say that these would be policies of a general nature, such as areas into which the corporation should expand its operations or policies with regard to its capital. In respect of individual transactions,

[Mr. Lang.]

it has been my experience and that of my predecessor that the individual transactions have not been brought to the minister for scrutiny and advice.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, bearing in mind that the government still owns all outstanding common shares of CDC and has approximately 70 per cent of the voting power in the corporation, will the minister indicate what steps are being taken to lower the government's dominant shareholder position in the CDC, as it was originally represented the government would do when it first proposed this scheme?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): As the hon. member knows, Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 15,000 to 20,000 individual Canadian shareholders with interest in the Canada Development Corporation. That corporation will have to make a judgment, on which we expect to be consulted, as to the further issuance of shares in due course when market opportunity would favour that.

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HEALTH**SWINE INFLUENZA VACCINATION—INVESTIGATION OF GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME AND POSSIBILITY OF COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS**

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the two reported cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome resulting from swine 'flu vaccinations, will the minister indicate whether an investigation of these cases will be carried out by his department? Is his department passing on relevant information from the experience in the United States with this problem, and will compensation be provided for loss resulting to families which have suffered from this disease as a result of the vaccination program?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): First of all, Mr. Speaker, it would be premature to establish a casual relationship between the vaccination and this particular syndrome. I think there have been four cases defined, two of them involving persons vaccinated and two involving persons who have not been vaccinated. It is too early to reach a conclusion on this particular aspect. Certainly we are passing on to the provinces any relevant information we obtain from the Disease Centre in Atlanta, Georgia concerning their survey of the situation. As far as compensation is concerned, this is a matter of law. The House will know, however, that we have provided for a form of guarantee for the losses of manufacturers who might be prosecuted regarding incidents of the disease resulting from the vaccination program with the exception of negligence on their part. There is provision for ensuring that there will be money available if a particular manufacturer is prosecuted, but the matter of legal liability will follow the normal route of the court system in the case of an individual suing the manufacturer involved.