

joint force operations over the past three years, I find there have been more than 22 illicit laboratories closed in that period by the RCMP, some of which were in the Toronto area.

Mr. Yewchuk: A supplementary question. In view of the allegation made by the CBC documentary that Toronto is a world centre for production of illicit drugs, is the minister satisfied with the current controls over drug production for this country and if not, what legislative or administrative changes is he proposing, if any, to counteract the alleged illicit drug production activity?

● (1450)

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice dealt with this question at length in the past few days as to what the government's response has been to that problem. Bill C-51 is presently before the House. We hope that all hon. members will want to take their responsibility of helping the police gain additional methods, tools and techniques to combat organized crime and other facts of criminal activity in this country.

PERCENTAGE OF ILLICIT DRUG LABORATORIES CLOSED AS
RESULT OF WIRETAPPING

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): In view of the minister's claim that the wiretapping bill is necessary, will he indicate what percentage of the 21 laboratories which were closed down were convicted because of wiretapping activities by the RCMP?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter I will be dealing with during the course of my statement. The hon. member for Calgary North has a number of times indicated there were only 13 convictions which resulted out of wiretappings in this country in 1976. That, as I pointed out in my speech on second reading of Bill C-51, is inaccurate and incomplete information. I hope to have the opportunity to set the record straight once again this afternoon. I hope the hon. member for Calgary North will pay some attention to the real statistics this time.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTANCE TO FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS
IN QUEBEC—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

On June 7 last, the minister told me that he was willing to appoint one of his officials to deal especially with the furniture problem in the Bois-Franc area. Since then, the plants of Victoriaville Specialities Co. Limited, Victoriaville Upholstering Limited, Poly Design, Dubo meubles and Victoriaville Furniture Limited have systematically announced that their business would be closing before July 1. The minister having

Oral Questions

stated also that he was waiting for a report from the Quebec Furniture Manufacturers' Association, is he in a position to tell us now whether he has received that report and if he has some proposals to make to assist more particularly the furniture industry in Quebec?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have been advised that I would receive within ten days the report prepared by the officials of my department in co-operation with the Quebec Furniture Manufacturers' Association. As for the official to whom I referred, I am told that a departmental official is constantly in communication with the manufacturers' association and takes note of all demands.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a supplementary question.

Given the more than tragic situation faced by workers in those plants, could the minister ask his official to contact officials of the Bank Canadian National who are very concerned at the prospect of that plant and other related plants closing down, to review the situation of those plants?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I shall pass the hon. member's suggestion on to my officials.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST THAT UNITED STATES IMPOSE MORATORIUM ON
GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the fact that the United States House of Representatives yesterday gave approval to an appropriations bill which included \$18.6 million for the Garrison diversion project, including money for the Lonetree reservoir whose waters will have a serious effect on Manitoba, will the government urge the U.S. government to put an immediate moratorium on the Garrison diversion project until the report of the IJC is complete, and will the government respectfully request President Carter to veto funds for the Garrison project in light of his support for the Canadian position?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have already made the kind of representations the hon. member is now requesting. This has been done on several occasions. Our embassy in Washington is in constant touch with this and related questions. I am not sure that any new instruction is needed for them to state the Canadian position, which is quite unequivocal. In so far as a request to the President with regard to veto, I do not feel in the circumstances that it would be appropriate for us to advise the head of another government in that connection. However, I can report to the House that the information we have is that it is President Carter's intention to impose such a veto, but that