

[English]

### TRADE

#### TEXTILES—INQUIRY WHETHER TARIFFS EXEMPTION LIST SUBMITTED TO GATT

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It concerns the increase in unemployment in the textile industry. Given the threat of further unemployment that reduced tariffs in the textile trade would bring to communities which are dependent on this industry, and given the increasing uncertainty and concern in these communities because of lack of information about what is taking place with the GATT negotiations in Geneva, I should like to ask the minister if an exemptions list for Canadian tariffs is now in place and whether textiles are included on that list.

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, we are entering into the MTN negotiations. We are putting on the table those things we believe we require from other countries. We are asking for things. We do not have an exemptions list as yet. I should like to inform the House that in the last half of 1977, investments in the textile industry rose, employment rose, and there is new confidence in this Canadian industry.

● (1152)

**Miss MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister whether it is the government's intention to submit an exemptions list and whether textiles will be on that list, because the answer the minister has given is pretty cold comfort to dozens of textile communities throughout Ontario and Quebec for whom uncertainty and secrecy are the greatest fears, as his colleague, the Minister of Finance, should be telling him.

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, we are going to great lengths to inform the industry of their exact position. During the whole negotiation we are going to great lengths to inform the provinces about what is going on at Geneva. I think never before in any trade negotiations at GATT have so many people been so well informed, nor have the provinces been so well informed as now.

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### CANADIAN CULTURE

#### CONFERENCE ON MULTICULTURALISM

**Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Multiculturalism) and pertains to a conference or seminar which will be sponsored by the department of multiculturalism and held here in Ottawa on the twenty-third of this month. Will he explain what criteria were used to determine who would receive invitations, and give us an idea of the total cost of this conference to the government?

### Oral Questions

**Hon. Norman A. Cafik (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)):** Mr. Speaker, there is an upcoming conference for all the ethnic press in Canada. It will be taking place later this month; in fact, next week. The purpose of the conference is to explain the new provisions of the Immigration Act and the human rights act. It will also deal with multiculturalism policy and our relations with the ethnic media.

In terms of cost, as this is being shared between the Department of Employment and Immigration and my department, the figures are not readily available. As soon as they are available, I will be very pleased to let the hon. member know.

**Mr. Mitges:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact, as the Minister has stated, that an invitation to the conference was extended to representatives of the ethnic media from across Canada, would the minister explain why Mr. Kissin, editor of the Toronto *Jewish Press*, did not receive an invitation, among others who have been in touch with my office to indicate they were not invited, considering that Mr. Kissin's newspaper has one of the largest circulations among the ethnic press in Canada?

**Mr. Cafik:** Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the hon. member drawing that information to my attention. If he knows of any other persons of the ethnic press who have not been invited, perhaps he would be kind enough to forward that information to my directorate and we will see that invitations are, in fact, extended.

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### AGRICULTURE

#### REQUEST NATIONAL BODY STUDY FOOD POLICY

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Since nothing has really come out of the national food policy conference that was held in Ottawa in February, except confusion, would the minister indicate whether the government is considering setting up a new national body to advise the government on food policy and, if so, would this national body that has been talked about include representatives of the various food systems in Canada?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member says nothing has come out of the federal strategy conference that took place here. Even some of the greatest procrastinators in the media were complimentary of the conference, saying it was a success. Some of the people who had condemned it from the start said it has been a success. They are putting all that information together—a lot of it was submitted by working groups—in order to arrive at a decision. Because the hon. member, on such a day as this, March 17, St. Patrick's Day, is not being so kind to the Minister of Agriculture, I would say to him, may the little people be kind to him.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!