

Oral Questions

practical resolutions", is it the intention of the minister to take advantage of Canada's position on the security council to introduce new practical resolution initiatives in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I think the operative words in the hon. member's question are the words with reference to the resolutions being practical. If it appears that some initiative in the Security Council, in addition to those presently underway in various other groups, would advance the situation, then of course Canada would be pleased to do so. It is my judgment at the moment that it is best left to the negotiating parties, for the time being at least, and that if there is to be action in the Security Council it is likely to come later in the present year.

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● (1455)

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

INQUIRY WHETHER FOOTWEAR IMPORTS WILL DECREASE

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. But first of all, I wish to congratulate the minister on his appointment to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Having said so, I want to bring again the attention of the House on the serious problems which our footwear industry is going through because of massive imports of shoes in this country. Would the minister tell us whether imports of footwear in Canada have decreased or will decrease in the coming days?

[English]

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): In answer to the hon. member's question let me say that the whole footwear industry has just gone through an exhaustive study and the department is sifting through that study. I can assure the hon. member we are watching the industry with a great deal of care.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Last July the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Finance introduced an interim report concerning the Anti-dumping Tribunal and footwear imports. Therefore, would the minister be prepared to let us know what progress is being made in these proceedings following the publication of a report by this Anti-dumping Tribunal and what he and his department intend to do to solve the matter once and for all, in order to avoid that too many lay-offs take place in the footwear industry, in the riding of Richmond and elsewhere?

[Mr. Wenman.]

[English]

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure the footwear industry in Canada through my answer to the hon. member's question that we intend to maintain it. We intend to make certain that it is capable of securing a large portion of the Canadian market and our efforts will be directed towards that goal.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

TEXTILES—REQUEST FOR RETENTION OF IMPORT QUOTAS

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance in his former position regulated quotas for the import of textiles. The present minister seems to be doing away with those, and since there is no mention of them in the throne speech, would the minister, either today or in his speech tomorrow night, confirm that those quotas will stay in place for the benefit of the many people who are employed in that industry, in my area at least?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Everyone knows that I maintain very good relations with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and we are in complete accord on the policies which he will announce or has already announced.

An hon. Member: Which policy?

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HEALTH

INSULIN—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON POSSIBLE PRODUCTION CUTS AND PRICE INCREASES

Hon. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, but first I would like to preface it by offering her our best wishes for health and wealth and good advice in her new portfolio. Would the minister investigate and report to the House on the disturbing news to Canadian diabetics about cuts in insulin production and its increased price?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the doctor for his good wishes and those of my other colleagues in the House. As to the serious question on insulin, I will ask the hon. member to give me until tomorrow to present a report to the House.

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FINANCE

MEASURES TO AID SMALL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister responsible for Small Business, I would like to put my question to the Minister of