

*Oral Questions*

[English]

## POSITION OF CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATIONS

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister says he had intensive consultations with various groups. Did any group such as the Consumers Association or the National Anti Poverty Organization, any group except the tax discounters, tell him they were satisfied with the proposal he made?

[Translation]

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** I think there are many associations that have stated their satisfaction with the Government's decision, because it introduces measures that will provide for freedom of choice and at the same time discourage this practice, to a certain extent.

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## FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY

INQUIRY WHETHER LAY-OFF STUDIES MADE BEFORE DECISION  
TAKEN ON QUOTAS

**Mr. Alain Tardif (Richmond-Wolfe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade.

Before breaking his election promise and betraying working men and women in the footwear industry, could the Minister advise the House whether his Department had carried out studies to determine the number of people who would be laid-off as a result of last week announcement?

[English]

**Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, once again I reiterate that in no way have we betrayed any employees of the footwear industry. Indeed, we are very cognizant of their concerns and their jobs. The tribunal looked into this whole question fully. They found there would be no loss of jobs because the industry could now meet the competition. Any loss would indeed be minimal. As you know, my hon. colleague, Flora MacDonald, has already announced and put in place—

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

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** Name dropper.

**Mr. Kelleher:** I am sorry. She has put in place many programs which will assist these workers in the rare event it is required.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION ON SUBJECT OF SHOES FOR  
WOMEN AND GIRLS

**Mr. Alain Tardif (Richmond-Wolfe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The new policy provides for a meek protection concerning shoes for women and girls.

I should like to know what the Minister intends to do to avoid the loopholes following his last week decision. What is he planning to do in order to block any loophole in this area of activity of the Canadian footwear industry?

[English]

**Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any loopholes in the tribunal's decision. They found that the women's and girls' shoes category needed protection. They asked that quotas be retained for another three years. We agreed to do that. Not only that, we agreed to phase quotas out much more slowly than the tribunal recommended. Obviously we have their concerns at heart.

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[Translation]

## ENERGY

GULF REFINERY IN MONTREAL—GOVERNMENT PLANS TO STOP  
CLOSURE

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I was recently in Montreal in connection with the Grey Cup Game which incidentally we—I mean, British Columbia—have won and to meet the workers of the Gulf refinery in Montreal East.

What is the Minister going to do now to keep the Gulf refinery in operation, in view of the promise she made to the Gulf workers? What is the Minister planning to do now to keep this refinery in operation?

[English]

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to join with the Hon. Member in expressing our great satisfaction with the fact that British Columbia won the Grey Cup.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** The vote was fifty-fifty in Cabinet.

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

**Miss Carney:** I am sure he will agree with me that it is a great start to our year of Expo '86 in Vancouver.

As to the Gulf refinery, the Hon. Member already knows that it is at my request that Gulf is keeping the refinery open so that potential buyers can emerge and commercial transactions can be considered.