

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

information was given to the government of the U.S.S.R. on Tuesday, why it was withheld from the House yesterday when I asked a question?

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** I believe the hon. member misunderstood my answer, Mr. Speaker. I think I said quite clearly that I had advised the Soviet authorities I was considering a possible cancellation. I only authorized the telegram cancelling it definitely some time last evening. I did not want to make it public here before it had reached the Soviet authorities.

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**INDUSTRY****FOOTWEAR—EFFECT OF IMPORTS ON JOBS—POLICY STATEMENT—IMPOSITION OF QUOTAS**

**Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the many representations from workers in the shoe industry pointing out the increasing loss of jobs because of imports, can he tell the House whether he is developing a new policy for the industry and, if so, when will he be in a position to announce that policy?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend was present at the meeting I had with the association representing the producers of footwear in Canada. He will recall that one of the conclusions was that we needed a lot better information as to how imports of footwear affect the Canadian industry, specifically in certain areas. This information has now been developed with the help of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and I am to meet the association again in the coming weeks. In the meantime, as he is aware, my department has made a tremendous effort to support sales, exports in particular of footwear in Canada. For example we have sponsored foreign buyers coming to Canada and we have made the IRDIA and PAIT programs applicable to this industry. We are also making the General Adjustment Assistance Program applicable to companies which can use it for exports. We are doing our best while developing the information that is needed to cope properly with the situation.

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** I have a supplementary question for the minister. In view of the fact the Throne Speech mentions that legislation will be introduced to protect the textile industry, would the minister make representations to his colleagues to have the footwear industry included in the same legislation?

**Mr. Pepin:** Well, Mr. Speaker, as I just said, I do not think we have the proper information to make that move, but if it should be demonstrated in the coming days that this is necessary I am quite sure my colleagues will consider that possibility with sympathy.

**Mr. Saltzman:** Mr. Speaker, while we are aware that some measures have been taken by the department to

[Mr. Thompson.]

assist the footwear industry, the fact is that the industry is in a pretty critical position despite these measures. While the minister is working on a long-term policy for the industry, is he prepared to impose immediate quotas on footwear as he did in respect of the shirt industry in a similar emergency?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, the situation is quite different. I do not have time to go into details, but in general the import of shoes into Canada is not exclusively a problem involving low-cost countries. It applies also to countries in Europe which are exporting to Canada and apparently are doing well because of factors other than cheaper labour. It is more complex than would appear and I regret that I am not able to go into details now.

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, is the minister not aware that there has been a very large increase in imports of shoes—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member's question is not in order in those terms. He asks whether the minister is aware.

**Mr. Hees:** I will rephrase my question, Mr. Speaker. As these imports, particularly of cheap shoes, have increased by a large percentage this year, does the minister not consider that this is a very similar situation to that in respect of the import of cheap textiles and will he not consider applying the same measures?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's question is argumentative. In essence he is asking the same question as that asked by the hon. member for Waterloo.

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**NATIONAL DEFENCE****LOOTING OF ARMOURY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES**

**Mr. Robert Borrie (Prince George-Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Minister of National Defence. With the looting of an armoury in British Columbia yesterday and the experience of similar activity in the past, would the Minister of National Defence advise the House whether plans are under way to provide 24-hour security at armouries where weapons and ammunition are stored?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Yes, Mr. Speaker; additional security measures have been initiated at other Canadian forces bases and stations in the area.

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**AGRICULTURE****INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—FEDERAL INTERVENTION IN COURT PROCEEDINGS**

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. I welcome him