

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, our problems are nothing like the problems of the government, one of which is this Minister of National Health and Welfare.

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

**Mr. McGrath:** I would like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who is responsible for the Combines Investigation Act, if he will refer this misleading ad to the combines investigation branch which has responsibility for dealing with misleading advertising. If he does that, he will find that it will be withdrawn from television.

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

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the director of investigations will take note of the hon. member's comment.

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● (1430)

[*Translation*]

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**

INQUIRY WHY GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO ASSIST "LES CHAUSSURES DES CANTONS DE L'EST" IN RICHMOND, QUEBEC

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. His department having refused to participate in the financing of Les chaussures des Cantons de l'Est project in Richmond, can the minister give the exact reasons for his refusal and tell us whether he expects a new study to be made of that file in the near future?

**Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, as I explained to the hon. member personally, the company and the applicants themselves are familiar with the exact reasons for which we turned down the request they made to our department with a view to helping that business to start operating again. As I have said repeatedly, if new considerations entered the picture, and if the project as submitted were to be financed differently, I could certainly justify looking at the application again.

**Mr. Beaudoin:** Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary. As the Quebec government has authorized a subsidy of some \$150,000 through the OSE program, Opération solidarité économique, phase 4, as well as a loan of \$350,000 from the Quebec Industrial Development Corporation—it would seem that the Quebec government is even looking into the possibility of making good the subsidy that was refused by the federal government—and as the Quebec government has said of the project that it will be of tremendous value to the area, while the federal government claimed that would be absolutely useless to the economic expansion of that area, can the minister explain why there should be so much difference between the appreciations of the Quebec and the federal governments on such a big project?

[Miss Bégin.]

**Mr. Lessard:** According to the information I have obtained, Mr. Speaker, the financial support which the Quebec government is willing to provide to carry out this project does not seem to meet the normal criteria established for the operation of current provincial programs. If the Quebec government should decide to provide financial assistance to this project, even if provincial officials claim that it is not economically viable, I think therefore that they are the ones who are making the decision. I suggest I should not have to wait until the Quebec government makes up its mind about a project before we decide ourselves whether or not to support it. Our decision has nothing whatsoever to do with whether or not the Quebec government supports it.

**Mr. Beaudoin:** Mr. Speaker, I have a last supplementary question. Would the minister tell the House—I am afraid I have been misunderstood—that provincial officials must cooperate with federal officials? How is it that this project, which should create 95 new jobs, is differently assessed? Is it for political reasons or what?

**Mr. Lessard:** Mr. Speaker, their criteria probably differ from ours. But according to the information available to me, they apparently feel that, based on their criteria, this project is not deemed viable.

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[*English*]

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****PROTECTION OF INDIANS' TREATY RIGHTS**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It has to do with the treaty rights of Indians. These rights are sacred to the Indians. Recently, the Indians won a case in connection with migratory birds being hunted outside the season applicable to other Canadians. The Government of Canada then entered into a protocol with the United States of America, a country which has never been very considerate of Indian rights all through the years. The judgment was, in effect, set aside and this aroused a deep sense of understandable antagonism among Indians in general. You cannot take treaty rights and destroy them without the consent of the treaty nation concerned.

Will the minister reconsider this question and assure, as a result of further consideration and discussion with the Indians, that their treaty rights will not be subject to interference by the government, however convenient it may be for the government to act in co-operation with the United States?

**Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** I share the right hon. gentleman's view of the importance of the treaties to the Indian and to the people of Canada. They were sacred undertakings entered into by the Crown and by the Indians. I think this government has always recognized that. But I am puzzled by his reference to the Migratory Birds Convention, because in fact what my colleague, the minister of the environment, did in signing the