

The press announced a few days ago that the minister had met with Canadian shoe manufacturers, especially those of the Eastern Townships and that the latter had brought to his attention the excessive importation of shoes into Canada.

Can the minister indicate whether his department or the government propose to do something to improve this situation?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we are working with the Quebec Industry and Commerce Department to develop an over-all program that should enable us to approach this question of shoe imports in a similar way to that which was used in the case of textiles and clothing.

Discussions are continuing in that direction and we hope soon to be in a position to make the usual announcements.

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[English]

INCOME TAX

DELAY IN SENDING T-4 SLIPS TO PENSIONERS

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the fact that T-4 slips, particularly for old age pensioners and other types of superannuated people, have gone out only during the month of March and are now being received and many of them have already submitted their income tax returns, imposing a particular hardship on these people, what action is the department going to take in respect of this tardiness in the administration of the Canada Pension Plan?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the question as notice.

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HARBOURS

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF PRAIRIE REPRESENTATIVE ON VANCOUVER PORT AUTHORITY

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Last fall I asked the minister if he would consider the appointment of a Prairie representative on the port of Vancouver authority. At that time he suggested that the national port authority had representation from the Prairie region. In view of recent problems I wonder whether the minister would reconsider the possibility of appointing someone from the Prairie region to the port of Vancouver authority?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe that would be consistent with the policy, nor in fact would it achieve the objective which I think we share. I had hoped we would have the National Ports Council in operation now. I believe I have a nominee from Saskatchewan, but I have had some difficulty with the change of government. Some names have

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come forward from different sources. I will get it done as quickly as possible.

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INDUSTRY

ACTION TO PREVENT REMOVAL OF NORTHERN ELECTRIC FROM MONTREAL

Mr. Raymond Rock (Lachine): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the high unemployment in Montreal, what action is the government taking to prevent Northern Electric from moving out of Montreal, which will affect around 3,000 jobs?

• (1450)

An hon. Member: Is that the best you can do?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I would like to check first on the validity of the information. I am not aware of any significant move by Northern Electric. The different ways in which the federal government through my department has supported Northern Electric in the past are well known and the support has been quite substantial.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Is the hon. member for Sainte-Marie rising for a supplementary?

[English]

Again I bring to the attention of hon. members that there are just three minutes left before the end of the question period.

[Translation]

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a very important question.

Recent newspaper reports had it that the Northern Electric Company expected to leave the province of Quebec.

Could the minister say whether he has taken measures so as to make sure that this industry will not move out of Montreal, in order to protect the employment of the 3,000 workers who will be affected by the—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has just repeated the question which had been put in English by the hon. member for Lachine.

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

REQUEST OF ANN BOOTH FOR LEAVE TO SEEK NOMINATION AS CANDIDATE IN FEDERAL ELECTION—PRESENT STATUS

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. It is a question that was asked of the Prime Minister yesterday by the gentleman who is now sitting