

consulted by Mr. Saunders who did not follow the recommendation of the Quebec Government and made his own planning without any consultation. The Quebec Government, the Federal Government, the unions, the Lauzon, Sorel and Montreal East boards of trade should all be consulted. That is what we proposed; it would have been proper management, but instead the Government ignored the fact that they put the future of an important industry, an industry which lost already about half its manpower because of a lack of jobs, of a lack of work . . . Instead of putting things on a sound basis, they kept trusting Mr. Sanders. I ask the question, Mr. Speaker: Does the Government really know what is good management of the Quebec economy? We can think for instance about the issue of free trade. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues in the House may be aware of the fact that the Government of Quebec made in-depth studies on the impact of free trade on the manufacturing sector in Quebec, and what did they find out? They found, Mr. Speaker, that on the whole, free trade would have negative effects on 12 important sectors affecting about 200—

Mr. Champagne (Champlain): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order. The Hon. Member for Champlain on a point of order.

Mr. Champagne (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, you will correct me if I am wrong, but we are talking about the Estimates, and I do not think free trade or my honourable colleague's perception of the negotiations on free trade, are relevant in this debate. I would like him to address the Estimates and not free trade.

• (1730)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. It is not a point of order, it is a point of debate.

[Translation]

Mr. Cassidy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your excellent ruling.

I would remind the Hon. Member that Mr. Reismann, who is the ambassador for the negotiations on free trade, receives now a salary of \$1,000 a day, or \$5,000 a week. That means that in the space of one week, he earns more than two young unemployed Quebecers who are forced to live on welfare payments of \$145 a month from the Quebec government. The salary he gets in a week is effectively the equivalent of what is paid to, not two, but three of those young forgotten workers of Quebec who are the victims of an incredible and permanent unemployment. Such are the priorities of this government!

The government of Quebec, Mr. Speaker—and I am referring to its study since those of the federal Government have not been released to the public—found out that about 230,000 jobs in two key industries would be affected by the free trade pact, in a negative way. Now, negative results are

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foreseen in two sectors and finally, positive effects in four sectors for a total of 30,000 jobs. We can ask ourselves, Mr. Speaker: Will the expansion in non-metal mineral products, sport equipment, tiling and aluminum industries and in the wood industry offer enough opportunities for Quebec to offset the negative effects of free trade on the textile and clothing industries, on industrial machinery manufacturing, shoes, printing, jewellery, instrument making, rubber products, electrical products, data processing, primary metal industries, furniture and machinery industries?

Those are the results, Mr. Speaker, those are the industries which will be negatively affected by free trade, by the impact of free trade on the manufacturing economy of Quebec.

We can also ask ourselves whether the Government, during its first 21 months and with its enormous support in Quebec, really cared about the real problems of Quebec. I would say that in many areas the answer is no.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, that on numerous occasions the New Democratic Party has raised the question of the textile and clothing industry, the problem of the loss of employment, as in just four years, since 1981, this industry has lost 13,000 jobs in Quebec alone. Half of the industry is located in Quebec. A secret study done by the Quebec Government shows that free trade will mean the loss of some 30,000 jobs in the textile and clothing industry of that province. I know, Mr. Speaker, that we might be able to make some adjustments, but can we see a way by which free trade in the textile industry, already threatened by imports could not only keep those 30,000 jobs which are in jeopardy, but actually create new employment opportunities? I would say no. Here is one single industry where the loss of jobs will be equivalent to all the gains which will be made in other industries as a result of the free trade agreement proposed by the Government of the Prime Minister.

Are these the changes that Quebecers sought when they ousted the Liberals and helped elect a Conservative Government with a 211 seat majority? It was 212, but there was a slight adjustment recently. Was that the change they had in mind? I don't think so. I believe Quebecers actually wanted a Government concerned with economic progress in the whole province of Quebec, in every area of the province, a Government concerned with all the industries threatened by international problems. However, what has the Government been doing for instance with respect to the footwear industry? Almost half of the 8,000 workers, men and women, employed by the footwear industry in Canada are found in Quebec, and their jobs are jeopardized by the removal of quotas.

• (1740)

Mr. Speaker, those quotas were not removed by the previous Liberal Government, but by the Mulroney Government.

Now, did the Government really consider the impact on those jobs in the province of Quebec? Apparently not, as those quotas were removed, Mr. Speaker, with a negative impact on