

Oral Questions

is that Revenue Canada is presently studying all wearing apparel originating from major exporting countries. To date, measures have been taken to evaluate properly all wearing apparel originating in Korea and Taiwan.

A study is under way in the department with respect to wearing apparel from Hong Kong, and a decision is expected shortly. I can assure the hon. member that I shall act upon the results of that study.

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● (1440)

INDUSTRY**INDUSTRIAL POLICY—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT**

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, one of the many reflections forced upon us by the series of questions we have just had is on the importance of import substitution in the development of an industrial policy. The minister of state responsible for industry mentioned in one of his first speeches that this was going to be one of his five priorities. Is he in a position today to tell us in general terms what he has been able to do and what he has been able to add to the existing capacity of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in this area?

Hon. Ron Huntington (Minister of State for Small Businesses and Industry): Mr. Speaker, in reply to that question, we are naturally placing emphasis on the Shop Canadian program that was already there. There is a business opportunity sourcing program which is of benefit primarily, in its present stage, to industrial operators in both Ontario and Quebec. Further to that, I think the important matter that has to be developed is co-ordination of the information-gathering system within the Government of Canada.

I am speaking specifically of the computer program in the department for imports and exports, and tying that in with the information-gathering system of Customs and Excise at National Revenue. We are working down that avenue in order to improve the information and statistical data base that will be available to guide both importers and exporters in Canada.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, in order to improve the quality of information on imports—because, obviously, this is what needs to be done—what has the minister been in a position to do? Has he had conversations with the minister responsible for StatsCan to this effect?

Mr. Huntington: No, Mr. Speaker, I have not had direct communication with the minister responsible for StatsCan, but I can assure the hon. member that I have had discussions with my officials as to the quality of the program that exists within Industry, Trade and Commerce. I am assured that it is really a Cadillac program and that it should be the nucleus of the information-gathering system in this general area, using both StatsCan and data available in National Revenue.

[Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton).]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**MIDDLEPORT, ONT.—CARRIAGE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS THROUGH REGION**

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment. Given the recent Mississauga accident as an example of the danger when transporting hazardous substances, and in view of the fact that the Ontario government is planning to establish a major PCB storage facility with a capacity of at least 5,000 tons near Middleport, Ontario, which is only 15 kilometres from Brantford, where I live, can the minister assure this House and the people of that area that there will be no transportation of these highly toxic chemicals into this very productive agricultural area?

Hon. John A. Fraser (Postmaster General and Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member, I cannot guarantee that there will be no transport at any time in the future. What I can say to the hon. member is that under the Transport of Dangerous Goods Act which was recently before this House I will consult with my colleague and ensure that his department and mine are monitoring these plans, and every effort will be made to ensure that there will be no lack of safety in the transport of PCBs if, in fact, the site which my hon. friend has mentioned is chosen. I am sure that all members of the House realize that the selection of this site is not a matter within federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Blackburn: I would like to ask the same minister if he has been able to determine whether it is the federal Department of Transport, the federal Ministry of the Environment, the Ontario ministry of transportation and communications or the Ontario ministry of the environment that is responsible for the transportation of hazardous chemicals, because it appears to me at this time that this whole area is not only muddled but it is a mess.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has indicated that the whole area is muddled or a mess. I can assure all members of the House that very considerable concern must flow from the fact that there is in this particular, very important field an overlapping of jurisdiction which makes it very difficult for any particular government, department or agency to be completely in control. It is my own view that there is federal authority to ensure that the transportation of dangerous goods be done in a safe manner, and I can assure the hon. member that that is the position I will be maintaining in this particular case.

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CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**BROADCASTING OF QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO COMMONWEALTH**

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State through whom the