

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION

INQUIRY RESPECTING SPOKESPERSON FOR GOVERNMENT

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens). Yesterday, the Minister said that the Canadian Government was considering guaranteeing a fixed percentage of the Canadian market to the Canadian textile, clothing and footwear industries. In Bonn, the Prime Minister wants to urge rich countries to open up their borders to goods from southern countries. We saw what little influence the Minister had in the Domtar affair. If the commitments of the Prime Minister are kept, it is obvious that the Minister has once more been telling us fairy tales. The Minister says one thing and the Prime Minister another. My question is this, Mr. Speaker: Who speaks on behalf of the Government?

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member may I say that the comment to which he is referring was simply a comment which was made with respect to a general discussion concerning the so-called sunset industries of this country. I pointed out at that time that in talking to textile manufacturers, the shipbuilding industry, and like companies, we thought a longer term perspective, to the year 2000, for example, was most appropriate, and we would like to learn from them—and in our discussions we are learning—what they feel they need from government to give them some confidence to build the factories, to create employment, and keep Canadians working. That is the main concern of this Government, and I wish the Official Opposition would give us more support in getting Canada back to work.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

TEXTILE INDUSTRY

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the North-South dialogue policy established by the previous Liberal Government has been retained by the present Prime Minister, does the Minister intend to strengthen the Canadian Industrial Renewal Board in the next budget so that the regions where textile industries are located can modernize and convert to new technologies, which would allow the Prime Minister to keep his commitments to developing countries?

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the CIRB organization to which the Hon. Member has referred, I would be very

interested to know what his view is, because his colleagues, when in government, proposed a sunset at March 31 next year. Is that still the position of the Official Opposition?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): What is your position? You are the Minister.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

FUNDING OF NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In spite of the Prime Minister's assurance that native programs would not be cut, provincial organizations such as the Council of Yukon Indians have not yet received their funding for the current year. Because the Deputy Prime Minister's task force called for a "go slow" policy in settling comprehensive land claims, many Indian organizations worry that the delay in funding is part of the new government policy for native programs, and that cut-backs are coming. Could the Minister assure the House, and assure the Indian people, that the level of funding for the Council of Yukon Indians, and for other Indian organizations, will not be cut back from the current level?

Hon. Walter McLean (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, in response to the question by the Hon. Member I would like to indicate to him, and to the House, that the funding has been approved for the Council of Yukon Indians. I had meetings with the regional director of my Department in Vancouver on Monday. Any questions were dealt with and final review was undertaken at that time. Next week myself and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development intend to make a more comprehensive announcement about the matter of funding for other organizations.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Crosbie: Your beard has gone.

Mr. Manly: That is true, it is. So is yours, John.

Could the Secretary of State assure the House that he is not attempting to undermine the funding for provincial and territorial organizations by funneling more money to the bands and not making money available to the provincial organizations?

Hon. Walter McLean (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will recall that the Prime Minister issued a statement. The guidelines of any announcements made by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, or myself, will be within the frame of reference outlined by the Prime Minister in his statement.