

*Oral Questions*

the report to which the Hon. Member is referring last December, and we find it helpful. I would point out to the Hon. Member that the main problem for the textile and clothing industry in Canada comes from such countries as Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, the low-wage countries, and that our feeling is that that is perhaps where the negotiations have to take place to ensure that we will have that viable textile and clothing industry to which I referred yesterday.

## EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN—EFFECT OF IMPORTS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, since we have made no progress in terms of the answers to the specific questions with either Minister, I would like now to ask a question of the Minister who is sitting behind the Minister who has just replied, the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. Considering that 64 per cent of clothing and textile workers are women, and considering that the Minister lectured his caucus colleagues and members of the Cabinet on the weekend about the need for the Government to be sensitive to major economic decisions which impact on women, I would like to ask the Minister if he has urged his cabinet colleagues to renew the quotas and to make sure we do not move into a free trade arrangement with the United States, an action which will release thousands of women onto the labour market.

**Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for the question. The rather pathetic story is an indication of just how seriously the Government takes the matter. In fact I have had discussions with my colleague, the Minister responsible for trade, about the negotiations and about the importance of having within our negotiating team a unit specific concerns relating to the impact on women of any decisions that are made.

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## INSURANCE

## LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR TRUCKING COMPANIES

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard-Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance. A group of Canadian trucking companies have been negotiating a loan guarantee with the federal Government in order to acquire an insurance company that has gone bankrupt, but so far there have been no results. Can the Minister do something so that the trucking companies can acquire this loan to buy the company and get liability insurance before it is too late?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, the truckers have been working very hard to come to a solution to their problem and I do commend them for it. We have been working with them on this.

The insurance company in question is in the hands of an Iowa regulator who is liquidating the company at the moment, and our regulators are in constant touch with him. Progress is

being made and we will be in touch with the truckers again on this matter.

## REQUEST FOR ACCELERATED NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard-Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, I know that the Government has been negotiating but we found out that if, in a couple of days, no decision is reached by the federal Government, the trucking industry will be left without insurance. Could the Minister speed up the negotiations in order to assure that the trucking industry will be able to receive insurance?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, speed is not traditionally of the essence in this town, but it is something at which I am working as fast I can.

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[Translation]

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

## INQUIRY IF RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES COMMISSION IS STUDYING GULF-ULTRAMAR TRANSACTION

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

The Minister is aware that Canada's Restrictive Trade Practices Commission is examining the circumstances of the sale of Gulf to Ultramar.

Mr. Speaker, my question is as follows. Could the Minister give the House the assurance that the Commission will examine the actions of Shell and Ultramar to find out whether threats made by these companies to close down their refineries in Montreal constitute a violation of Section 32 of the Combines Investigations Act?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, I believe I gave a satisfactory explanation last week. As I said before, the Canadian Restrictive Trade Practices Commission is responsible for deciding who should be heard when it decides to hold an inquiry, to conduct hearings and to receive testimony. I have no control over this Commission, so I have no comments on the subject.

## REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister allow public hearings to be held so that the consumer can be sure that Shell and Ultramar did not try to restrict competition in Quebec in order to increase oil prices and profits?