

Oral Questions

the House whether the government is considering extending the provisions of the Neighbourhood Improvement Program, which has been such an important factor in both providing employment and improving the living standards of tens of thousands of people in the older parts of all Canadian cities? Is the government giving consideration to extending that program, which is now coming to an end as a result of the legislation?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate whether an early announcement, including the amounts of money which will be made available, will be made so that the provinces and cities interested in extending the program can begin to make their plans? Also, can the minister indicate whether the government, at the same time as considering extending the Neighbourhood Improvement Program, will consider changing the plan to provide block funding for provinces and cities for sewage disposal systems, water extensions, and so on?

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should have been in the House a week ago. I have already answered these questions. I indicated that my officials have had consultation with provincial officials specifically in relation to the programs which have been put forward by the federal government, which are extremely popular and have been extremely valuable in job-creation and in the commencement of municipal activities.

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INDUSTRY**MEASURES TO IMPROVE AILING MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As the minister's departmental study entitled "Manufacturing Performance" reads, "We have lost 80,000 manufacturing jobs since 1974", and as the Canadian Manufacturing Association indicated recently, "If we can overcome our \$11.5 billion a year deficit in fully manufactured products, we could create 80,000 new jobs", would the minister take the first opportunity on motions to outline what, specifically, he is doing to get the Canadian manufacturing industry back on its feet so that it can start to overcome this gigantic \$11.5 billion deficit in fully manufactured products and start to create those potential 80,000 new jobs?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to outline what we are doing to assist manufacturing in this country. That paper from which the minister quoted is a brief outline of where we are at.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: You are just a little ahead of time, Jack, but it will not be long.

[Mr. Orlikow.]

Mr. Horner: The paper the hon. member quoted from is a brief outline of where we are at. The \$11 billion end-product figure that he speaks of must be looked at in its true perspective. End-product exports increased 50 per cent from 1975 to 1977. We exported \$10.7 billion worth of end products in 1975. Last year we exported \$14.9 billion worth of end products. Thus, we are increasing, but we are also increasing—

Mr. Andre: That is hogwash.

Mr. Horner: The hon. member speaks of hogwash. I can only say that he is a good judge of what hogwash is; he has wallowed in it for a long time.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Horner: Let me continue to explain, Mr. Speaker. The \$26 billion which the hon. member speaks of is the importation of end products into this country. In no way am I going to restrict Canadians in their right to purchase whatever they wish.

Mr. Clark: That is an interesting policy. Do you want to reconsider that?

Mr. Horner: My department is isolating that \$26 billion and encouraging Canadian manufacturers to take any part or all of the \$26 billion worth of goods that we now import. Besides that, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, from the minister's answer it is very obvious that this enormous deficit will increase, because the minister has stated very clearly that he will encourage import of fully manufactured products into this country.

An hon. Member: That is right; that is exactly what he said.

Mr. Hees: Following that statement, I ask the minister whether he intends, or if he is instructing his negotiators at GATT to follow the free trade line which he has so often said he prefers. When he is giving his answer, would he please stick to the facts and not so much to that commodity which is in such abundant supply on his cattle ranch in the west?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I never said I was going to encourage imports; I said that we were going to encourage Canadian manufacturers to take a piece, or all, of that \$26 billion we are now importing: we are going to encourage Canadian manufacturers.

Mr. Clark: Read the record.

Some hon. Members: How?

Mr. Horner: How? By a whole series of incentives which my department is making available to the manufacturing industry.