

*Oral Questions*

to accept the principle that workers in different parts of the country doing the same jobs should be paid at the same rate. Will the Minister instruct his officials to accept the majority conciliation report which partially redresses this very important issue?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I take strong objection to the preamble to the Hon. Member's question. In this case the Government has never refused to negotiate in good faith. The members of the union walked off their jobs illegally and we are now seeking an injunction to deal with the issue.

## REQUEST FOR RESUMPTION OF BARGAINING

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, if the Minister wants to avoid labour disputes in the four Departments, and if he is not prepared to accept the conciliator's report which was reluctantly accepted by the unions, would he at the very least go back to the bargaining table to present a new offer, something which he has not done in six months, to see if some settlement can be reached?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member speaks of good labour relations. I would just like to tell him that in the last several months we have successfully signed 64 collective bargaining agreements with 159,307 employees in the Public Service, with no labour disruptions whatsoever, at an average rate of 3.53 per cent for three years.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. de Cotret:** That represents 82.29 per cent of unionized Public Service workers. We are doing everything in our power to reach good negotiated settlements that are fair for the public, for the Government and for the employees concerned, and we are succeeding.

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[Translation]

## TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

## ALLEGED MANNER IN WHICH ROMANIA HANDLES QUOTAS

**Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Finance).

Some Quebec industries have told me that Romania is circumventing import quotas on specific items and saturating the Canadian market with winter and fall overcoats instead of pyjamas and raincoats, and so forth.

Does the Minister intend to make enquiries at Canada Customs in order to correct, if necessary, the way the tariffs on textile imports are enforced?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I believe this matter should be brought to the

attention of my colleague, the Minister for International Trade. In fact, I believe he is examining the matter at this time.

I may add that imports from Romania represent only 1 per cent of our clothing imports.

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## INDUSTRY

## INQUIRY WHEN GOVERNMENT WILL ANNOUNCE MEASURES TO AVOID CLOSURE OF PLANTS IN MONTREAL EAST AND CREATE MORE JOBS

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Montreal area Cabinet committee.

The survival committee got together last week and their unanimous view was that the federal Government did not do anything to avoid, or rather to save jobs in Montreal East, and Canadian Vickers Limited did lay off 175 employees.

Can the Minister tell us when he will announce concrete measures to avoid plant closures in Montreal East and create more jobs? Second, did he get a report from the advisory committee?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reply to my colleague. The answer to his second question is yes, the advisory committee did submit a preliminary report in record time, in fact hardly a month after it was established. The advisory committee is planning to present a second report to the Cabinet committee on Friday of next week.

With respect to measures, I would point out to the Hon. Member that we have already unveiled a fair number of measures designed to boost Montreal's economic development. Indeed some of these measures had been recommended by the advisory committee.

## REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT PUBLISH REPORTS PRESENTED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not give an answer concerning specific measures to improve deteriorating conditions in Montreal East.

Can the Minister tell us whether he will be releasing the advisory committee reports, and whether the advisory committee report contains recommendations to help Montreal East?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, since the purpose of this exercise is give back to Montreal the economic stamina it lost under the previous Government, unfortunately, it stands to reason that the appropriate recommendations made by the advisory committee