

engineer to determine the specific cause of the accident. We will take action thereafter.

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[Translation]

TEXTILE INDUSTRY

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, I direct my question to the Minister for International Trade.

Last November 29 the Government told the House it would announce its textile policy in the coming months. On May 1, 1985 Government spokesmen again told us about a major plan to restructure the textile industry. Eleven months later, no plan has yet been announced, hundreds of jobs are being lost, and what I want to know from the Minister is this: Is the Government waiting for the textile industry to disappear before announcing its plan?

[English]

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure the hon. gentleman that this Government has every intention of doing everything it can for the textile industry so that it will be able to survive. I can tell the Hon. Member that a group of Ministers are presently working on this program. We hope to be able to discuss the matter in the next short while in Cabinet and announce a textile policy which will be of benefit not only to the industry but to all of Canada.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER INTENDS TO STOP GRANT TO TEXTILE PLANTS

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, plants are closing down and 755 textile workers will apply for unemployment insurance in the next two months.

Here is what I want to know from the Minister: Does he intend to stop the \$6 million grant to Dominion Textile to upgrade two plants scheduled to close down in June? Will he spend taxpayers' money on plants which will no longer be in operation in a few months?

[English]

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that particular question under advisement. I am not familiar with the payment to Dominion Textile. That is a matter under the purview of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. I will have the matter brought to his attention and we will see that a reply is made.

Oral Questions

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS

MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Last month in Halifax he announced to a closed meeting his decision to reduce the amount which the provinces would receive under present legislation with regard to transfer payments. The Minister knows that that is money used for medicare, post-secondary education and other provincial programs. Will the Minister confirm to Canadians that that indeed was his announcement?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not know from where the Hon. Member would have obtained that information. However, what I would say to him is that there were no specific amounts mentioned. In the Budget speech of last May I mentioned that the growth rate would be reduced so that there could be savings of \$2 billion from what would have been the case had the previous growth rate continued. The amounts which will be paid to the provinces will bear the same percentage of program spending in 1990-91 as they bear in the current fiscal year. Thus, the provincial share of federal government spending will remain the same.

IMPACT ON PROVINCES

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same Minister. He has not answered my question.

There was no indication in the Budget that there would be a cut next year with respect to the transfer payments. Will he admit that that indeed is the case? Will he finally give the public the amounts which are involved? It is a serious matter. Why not come clean?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I indicated in the announcement I made with respect to the \$2 billion saving that it would start in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Murphy: That is not in your Budget. Your Budget has nothing.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Will the Hon. Member let me answer his question? He says it is an important one. I would like him to listen to the answer.

The savings will commence next year. However, there was no discussion at the meeting in Halifax with respect to the amounts which will be saved. Another meeting will be held within the next few weeks. At that time I would expect to have some agreement with the provinces in regard to what the amount will be.