

we tried to do just that last year when, through the Prices and Incomes Commission, we suggested to various sections of the economy that a meeting be called to try and agree to somewhat curtail the inflationary trends. The hon. member will also recall that at that time we were unable to ascertain the co-operation or the attendance of representatives from large sections of the industry and I have no reason to believe, since I already have contacted them, that such a meeting would now be more agreeable to them.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Peace River on a supplementary.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a direct question. In view of the situation revealed, will he replace the government's present economic advisers and scrap their policies which have proved totally inadequate to deal with unemployment and inflation?

\* \* \*

[Translation]

#### INDUSTRY

##### SHOES—MEASURES TO ASSIST QUEBEC MANUFACTURERS

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce who is also the member for Drummond.

I would like to ask the minister who cited figures a few moments ago indicating an increase in exports whether he is aware that footwear imports threaten the very existence of nearly 90 per cent of shoe manufacturers in Quebec, and could he inform the House as to the measures he is considering to rescue this industry from stagnation?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** I am well aware of this situation, Mr. Speaker. If the hon. member would like to suggest with the unanimous consent of his Conservative colleagues that drastic protectionist measures be taken, I would be very happy to consider his suggestion.

**Mr. Valade:** Mr. Speaker, I think that it is a quite urgent question since it deals with an industry of which 90 per cent of its activities are carried on in Quebec.

I am asking the minister a clear and specific question.

Does he intend to take some steps liable to prevent early stagnation in the Quebec footwear industry?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, I have often stated in the House that it would be wrong to think that all footwear imports in Canada directly affect the Canadian footwear industry.

Evidently some footwear should not be manufactured in Canada because it would not be profitable to make them. I am thinking, for example, of Japanese sandals.

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#### Inquiries of the Ministry

What we have been trying to do, Mr. Speaker, as I have often mentioned it in this House—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The minister, I understand, wishes to give the hon. member some detailed information. It would perhaps be more simple if the minister would directly communicate the proper information to the hon. member who, I am sure, would be pleased to obtain it.

**Mr. Valade:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member for Sainte-Marie rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Valade:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Sainte-Marie.

**Mr. Valade:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order so as to report that the footwear industry is now in a deplorable situation and I ask the government to make its position and political objectives known—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Apparently, the minister wanted to go on and the hon. member for Sainte-Marie is rising on a point of order. Because of the very short time available, I will say to the hon. member and to the minister that it is most difficult to allow a minister to give a detailed reply to a question even if it is very important.

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a very brief supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe wishes to ask a supplementary.

**Mr. Ricard:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister why 35 shoe manufacturers closed their plants?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Again I suggest that such information could be obtained in a general statement by the minister on motions.

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[English]

#### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

##### UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION—INQUIRY AS TO CANCELLATION BY PRIME MINISTER OF TRIP TO RUSSIA

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the crisis proportions of the unemployment problem and the inflation problem, are his plans still remaining the same with respect to his visit to Russia, or is he going to cancel this visit and stay home to deal with these problems?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I know that I am planning to leave on Sunday. I do not seriously think that by delaying or postponing the trip I would change the figures in a way in which the government itself could not change them in my absence.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!