

Oral Questions

With respect to the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of the air traffic controllers, it does blunt the efficacy of the strike route, I think we must say, and may also raise the importance of the arbitration route. If a parliamentary committee is established, would the minister consider referring the question of improving the methods of arbitration in the public service to that committee? I ask this because it seems to me that the situation may well give way to a greater and greater use of the arbitration route in settling disputes, or questions involving the relationship between the public servant and the employer.

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): I tend to agree with part of the question raised by the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton. There may, indeed, be ways of improving the arbitration route. We are constantly looking at ways to improve the arbitration route and, for that matter, other measures under the Public Service Staff Relations Act. I am raising those matters with my colleagues. But with respect to the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada, it seems to me that it simply confirmed the intention of parliamentarians, many of whom were probably here in 1967 when the act was adopted and when the designation process was established.

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[Translation]

TRADE**INQUIRY WHETHER MODIFICATIONS TO FOOTWEAR IMPORT CONTROLS ARE CONTEMPLATED**

Mr. Marcel Ostiguy (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for International Trade. In view of the many representations that have been made by members on this side of the House and by the Canadian footwear industry, could the minister inform the House whether and when he expects any changes in the current policy on footwear import quotas in Canada?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, we shall make a decision on the footwear question during the last week of June or the first week of July, after the federal-provincial conference of Trade and Commerce Ministers on June 21 here in Ottawa.

● (1450)

INQUIRY WHETHER STATEMENT ON FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY WILL BE MADE BEFORE SUMMER RECESS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary. Could the minister give us any guarantees today that a statement regarding the footwear industry will be made before the summer recess, while the members are still here and not after they have left?

[English]

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, my colleagues on this side of the House have already requested that we make a statement before the parliamentary recess. It is my hope that, after we have had discussions on the shoe issue and other issues with my provincial colleagues, we will have an announcement to make, prior to the ending of the session.

[Translation]

ASSURANCE SOUGHT THAT FOOTWEAR ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE BEFORE SUMMER RECESS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I am not asking for hope, I am asking for a commitment. Could we have a commitment from the minister today that there will not be a statement on the footwear question after the House has adjourned, as was unfortunately the case with VIA Rail?

[English]

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, as I said, what happens in this House on our side is the responsibility of our House leader. I will discuss it with him. We hope to have a decision made prior to the end of the session.

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THE ECONOMY**INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. He has indicated that a new budget is in the offing. He will be well aware of the \$21 billion deficit in manufacturing which has resulted in the loss of 200,000 jobs. The cost to every man, woman and child in Canada is \$1,000 each, annually. Will the minister state to the House today that in the new budget the government will be moving off its disastrous resource megaprojects strategy and into a manufacturing-oriented strategy in terms of economic recovery and job creation?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, to clear up the first point, I have not stated, either directly or indirectly, that a new budget is in the offing. When that decision is made it will be announced to the House.

I would direct the hon. member's attention to the document tabled at the time of the budget, entitled "Economic Development for Canada in the 1980s", in which was laid out the economic approach of the government. If he looks at the document carefully he will find that the manufacturing sector did receive very strong support as a major element in the future growth and development of the Canadian economy. For that reason I do not believe that the hon. member is asking us