

*Oral Questions**[English]*

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the telegram and the department has attempted to reach bilateral agreements with Taiwan, South Korea, Brazil, Spain and the European Common Market, particularly Italy, with regard to their exports of footwear to this country. I can inform the hon. member we have not been entirely successful in that approach. I have placed a document on footwear before the cabinet and hope to have a decision very soon.

*[Translation]*

FOOTWEAR—REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO PREVENT DUMPING

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Considering that the bilateral discussions with the underdeveloped countries where wages are low did not produce the results expected by the government of Canada and particularly by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, can the minister tell the House whether the government intends to take extremely severe measures against the import or near dumping of footwear which hurts the Canadian markets, and particularly whether the government will take measures to inform the public that shoes imported from these countries are similar to those which are made in Canada but that the quality is different?

*[English]*

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** We can, indeed, take action under Article 19 of GATT but the hon. member must realize that if we do so we might well have to pay for it. In paying for it, part of the footwear industry of Canada, and that is in Ontario and the province of Quebec, will have to pay through loss of exports. Therefore, the good part of the industry might have to pay for the bad, and that is the difficult position in which we find ourselves.

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● (1432)

**INCOME TAX**BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF TAX RETURNS—  
GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the very startling revelations made today by Toronto broadcasters Charles Templeton and Pierre Berton that it is possible for unauthorized individuals to get their hands on the confidential tax returns of virtually any Canadian; information which is given to the Department of National Revenue on the basis that it is to be kept confidential and secret, would the minister explain why there is such laxity in his department's security regulations that this could take place, and explain what actions are being taken by his department to ensure that information which is given to the govern-

*[Mr. Beaudoin.]*

ment on a confidential basis is kept confidential and not available to unauthorized individuals?

**Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I learned of this very serious offence this morning through a radio broadcast in Toronto. I am extremely concerned, as I am sure are all Canadians.

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

**An hon. Member:** You had it prepared.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** I should like to repeat, this is a very serious offence against the Income Tax Act. My cabinet colleagues have met this morning, and the RCMP has been asked to launch an immediate investigation.

**An hon. Member:** Here we go again.

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

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** It is hoped that this investigation will be complete, swift and as soon as possible, and that the person or persons involved will be subject to the prosecution which is provided under the Income Tax Act.

I have also ordered an immediate increase in security procedures in revenue offices across the country, and have ordered the 20 directors in the various offices to take steps to review and tighten security.

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

**Mr. Beatty:** Mr. Speaker, I find it hard to take the hon. member seriously. Could he tell the House whether he has asked his officials how it is possible for an individual who is not authorized, but as a private citizen, to simply call up a telephone number and ask to have the private and confidential information on the tax returns of individuals, information given to the government on a confidential basis? Would he indicate how extensive this sort of violation of individual confidentiality has been in the past, and what specifically is being done by the minister today to eliminate this particular breach of security?

**An hon. Member:** He has told you.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I hope I will not have to repeat what I have already said.

**An hon. Member:** You are not alone.

**An hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** Do it again, Joe, in French.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member has all the information he pretends to have, I think he should have got in touch with me because I was in the House all day since very early this morning and no information has been brought to my attention or to the attention of my officials.

In answer to his question—