Oral Questions

Government facilities and using unfair booking practices, when the accommodation business is in such economic trouble?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, obviously this is beyond the reach of my own Department. I will bring it to the attention of the Minister responsible for tourism, but I doubt that he can resolve the problem of competition in Canada between the private sector and the public sector in one shot. I would suggest that my hon. friend meet with him and tell him all the facts as he understands them. It is impossible for a Minister to answer questions of such breadth.

RATES CHARGED BY CORNWALL TRAINING CENTRE

Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque): Madam Speaker, there is a complex in Cornwall, Ontario, which is supposed to be operated by the Department of Transport. It has 700 rooms, meeting facilities and recreational facilities. The price per day for a single occupancy room with three meals is 20 bucks. The Government claims that it is operating it on a cost recovery basis. Would the Minister explain what portion of the costs the Government is recovering when it is only charging \$20 per day?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, this centre which the Department has in Cornwall is well known by everybody. It is used extensively for the training of personnel in the area of transportation—air traffic controllers, pilots and the like. It has been a success. We are now training at Cornwall people coming from other countries of the world. It is recognized as a great asset to the country. I am quite sure that people in the Cornwall area are delighted with it. If my hon. friend wants to pick a fight with those people, I suggest he be very careful and arm himself quite substantially in order to resist the pressure he will get from them.

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

THREATENED LOSS OF JOBS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Yesterday the Prime Minister indicated that he had no intention of requiring plants which were closing or moving their operations from one part of Canada to another or, for that matter, from one part of Canada to any other part of the world, to disclose publicly the reasons for their moves. Today we discover that the Government has no intention or no over-all strategy to protect the close to 80,000 jobs in the garment industry, most of which are in small communities in Quebec, parts of Ontario, and Manitoba. If the Government does not have any over-all strategy to protect those workers from the inevitable loss of their jobs, where does the Minister propose those people will find work?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is incorrect when he says that the Government has no policy with respect to protecting jobs in the textile, clothing and footwear industries. As a matter of fact the Government has taken substantial steps over the last ten or 15 years in terms of setting quotas with respect to many textile, clothing and footwear products across the country. Also, if I am not mistaken, I think Members of his own Party from different parts of the country have said that the Government of Canada had been protecting some of those industries far too long and in many cases should open up the door for more of these goods to help Third World countries. I am a little surprised by the question of the Hon. Member.

Mr. Deans: I suppose you would have to believe your own rhetoric to believe that.

MODERNIZATION OF PLANTS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, the Minister of State for International Trade has just indicated that he has no intention of accepting the proposal made to him by the director of the clothing workers union to apply under GATT for some assistance in combating the erosion of the garment industry in Canada. Is it reasonable to sit by and watch small one-industry towns being devastated by inevitable closures which will take place as a result of Canada's inability to provide reasonable protection and reasonable assistance for the garment industry that employs the majority of workers in many small communities in Ontario and Quebec? If it is unreasonable to expect that, why does the Government not come forward with an over-all program to modernize and assist in the redevelopment of those industries so that those towns will not ultimately disappear?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):
Madam Speaker, I am a little disappointed in the Hon.
Member.

Mr. Deans: I do not care about that.

Mr. Lumley: Two years ago the Government of Canada, this Government, introduced a program called CIRB, or OCRI en français, to provide \$267 million to do the very thing about which the Hon. Member just asked a question—to modernize and restructure the textile, clothing and footwear industries.

Mr. Deans: It has not worked.

Mr. Lumley: I hate to disagree with the Hon. Member, but he had better talk to the companies that have taken advantage of the \$100-odd million which has already been spent. We undertook this as well as negotiated quotas for textiles and clothing across the country under the MFA. In the footwear industry, if I am not mistaken, the Hon. Member made representations for companies in his own riding for quotas on shoes—