

industry and that 40,000 jobs will also be in jeopardy in the textile industry? Are you going to tell us the same old story?

Nobody believes you when you say that. The proof is there. According to the polls published last week, 52 per cent of the Canadian people do not trust the present government. Why? After only one year. What will they say after four years?

Mr. Speaker, during Question Period we saw the Prime Minister hide behind the Antidumping Tribunal. He said: we have not changed, I did not break my promise. We had a report from the Antidumping Tribunal and we implemented their recommendations. But it is ridiculous to see a government let an antidumping tribunal tell it what to do. The Government did not have the courage to make its own decisions and to say after having analyzed the situation: Are we going to maintain quotas or are we going to remove them because we think this is what we should do? Of course not. The Prime Minister defends himself saying: I did not deny anything. I kept my word. I hid behind a report.

One only has to read the report to realize that it contains various options and that the quota system could indeed have been maintained.

Because I have a few minutes left, Mr. Speaker, I should like to read a letter which several Hon. Members have received also. I would like everybody to know the tragedy which Canadians, Quebecers especially, are going through because of this decision by a Conservative Government. It is a letter from the Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada.

Dear Mr. Gagliano,

As you know, before the end of November 1985—

This letter was written before the Government announced its decision.

—the Government will make a decision which will mean the life or death of the footwear industry in Canada.

If the Canadian Government decided to extend the quota system for a minimum period of five years, thereby ensuring the industry only 50 per cent of the Canadian market, it would get the support—

- of most members of the three federal parties;
- of the Quebec and Ontario Governments;
- of workers and trade unions;
- of manufacturers, tanners and suppliers;
- of the vast majority of the 4,500 small independent retailers;

Because, Mr. Speaker, these quotas do not affect only footwear manufacturers, but also retailers and even importers as well. Because, beginning December 1, there will be war, once these quotas are lifted.

—and especially—

I continue reading, Mr. Speaker.

—of 8 out of 10 Canadians (National Survey—Decima Research).

This decision which the Government is legally empowered to make would not only protect existing jobs but create 6,000 new ones, as well as encourage investment in the new technology.

If, unfortunately, the Government accepted the contradictory and unrealistic findings of the tribunal and followed the ill-advised recommendations of Interna-

tional Trade officials, it would mean the death of our industry and 20,000 lost jobs.

20,000 families are anxiously waiting for the Federal Government to make a decision concerning the footwear import quotas.

We are counting on your full support to convince the Government.

It is too late, Mr. Speaker, the Government has made its decision and, as the letter said, has signed the death sentence of the footwear industry in Canada as well as decreed the laying-off of 20,000 Canadian workers.

• (1800)

[English]

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, I noticed that the Hon. Member proposed that we should ignore the report of the tribunal which his Party established.

Mr. Allmand: Like you with the Abella Report.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Would the Hon. Member tell us why the Liberals set up that tribunal if they intended to ignore it. Who were they trying to fool?

[Translation]

Mr. Gagliano: Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for External Affairs is saying that we ignored the report. Of course we are not telling you to ignore the report, but there were two versions in that report. If he were to read it closely he would know there was the version of the manufacturers, but it was more difficult to find the version of the importers.

As a Government you have to ask yourselves some questions. Why did some of the interested parties in the industry—importers, exporters, retailers—not even bother to appear before the tribunal and state their case? How is it that after reading the whole report one reaches the logical conclusion that quotas should be maintained? All of a sudden—

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member.

It being 6.04 p.m., it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the business of Supply in accordance with Standing Order 63(9).

The question is the following one: Mr. Tardif (Richmond-Wolfe), seconded by Mr. Gauthier moved that this House regrets that the Prime Minister has once again broken an election campaign promise, this time by failing to maintain quotas on imports of shoes and by compounding this betrayal by failing to make adequate provision for the thousands of workers whose jobs are adversely affected. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the motion please say yea.