

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): We created the modernization fund because we have a positive interest in the industry—

Mr. La Salle: You are letting them die!

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, that is why we have maintained quotas on non-woven footwear and added a quota on canvas shoes, something which was not in previous quotas. So we do take a positive interest, and we are taking the interests of the industry and its workers very seriously.

Mr. La Salle: Prove it, that is not enough!

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ARGENTINA—SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Yesterday the European Economic Community gave encouraging support to Britain in the Falkland Islands dispute. It is considering bans on key imports from Argentina along with trade and financial sanctions which would be the most extensive the EEC has ever undertaken. West Germany, for example, has already cancelled an \$850 million warship contract with Argentina. Is the Canadian government considering any comparable measures?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, the only countries which have taken stronger action than Canada are the United Kingdom itself and New Zealand. The measures which the hon. member relates with respect to West Germany are exactly parallel to the measures that we have taken here.

EMBARGO ON MILITARY SHIPMENTS

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On Monday the minister told the House the following:

We are placing an immediate embargo on all military shipments to Argentina—

A phone call to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce yesterday elicited the information that exports to Argentina of military weapons, ordnance and parts, in 1981 amounted to \$15,647.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McKinnon: Does the minister really believe that cutting off this amount of military shipments accomplishes anything other than making him look ridiculous?

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McKinnon: The amount represents one fifty-thousandth of 1 per cent of our export trade. This mouse's attempt to roar so far is only a barely audible squeak.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I will check on those figures. But the important fact is that there is some trade in military materials between Canada and Argentina. I believe there are some additional materials which are double purpose requiring an export permit but which might not be classed as military material according to the hon. member's information. I will be glad to check into that and inform him in due course.

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[Translation]

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL AID GASPÉ UREA FORMALDEHYDE FOAM INSULATION VICTIMS

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In the riding of Gaspé, there are over 400 families—about 2,000 people—who are affected by urea formaldehyde foam insulation. More than twenty-five families have already left their homes, and others are waiting to do so. I have medical certificates stating that children must leave their homes for accommodation that is not insulated with UFFI. My question is as follows: Could the minister inform the House whether he intends to continue his representations to the provinces, in order to persuade them to grant direct assistance to owners of homes insulated with UFFI, and does the minister intend to increase the federal contribution, which is already set at \$5,000, or is he going to urge the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to help these homeowners through its RRAP program?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the concern shown by the member for Gaspé for home owners who are victims of UFFI. I would urge the hon. member to make sure that these home owners are registered with the Canadian centre here in Ottawa, in order to be eligible for federal assistance, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Unfortunately, despite our urgent representations to provincial authorities during the past weeks, actually the past months, none of the provincial governments intends to give direct financial assistance to UFFI victims, and I think this is most regrettable. To answer the hon. member's question about using the RRAP program to finance repairs to