

Oral Questions

dumped on our market depressing our prices to that of theirs. Canadian cattlemen are better off by \$100 million by our action. Discussions are taking place with our U.S. counterparts.

Mr. Hurlburt: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that in the last 18 months we have had tariffs on and tariffs off, surcharges on and surcharges off, subsidy programs and the diethylstilbestrol issue, I should like to ask the minister if he feels this will be a deciding factor as far as Washington is concerned?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has mentioned many of the programs we have initiated to help the cattle producers, and I may say that this was at the insistence of the cattle producers of Canada practically at all times. These things have been discussed with the United States, and these are some of the laws of our land that we have to abide by.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**BODY OF DEAD WATER IN RED RIVER—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO DIMINISH EFFECT**

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister which relates to a body of dead water approximately eight miles in length moving down the Red River which could result in a fish kill of magnitudinous proportion. Will the Prime Minister indicate to the House what steps the government is taking to diminish the effect of this slug of dead water?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take notice of that question as I do not have any detailed answer. I do know the subject is being studied by the IJC. I will check for a report and can perhaps then provide a responsible answer.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY**TEXTILES—POSSIBLE LAY-OFFS—MEASURES TO SAVE INDUSTRY**

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Since the government has agreed to accept some of the proposals made by the special commission on textile products and since information from that industry leads me to believe that the number of its employees will decline by 50 per cent within the next six months, considering the clearly inadequate decisions taken by the government, could the minister say whether he intends to take new measures, which would be much more drastic than those it has taken, to save the textile industry in Canada, rather than letting it go in jeopardy, as it now is?

[Mr. Whelan.]

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the figure of 50 per cent reduction in the employment levels of that industry. I think that is a gross exaggeration, and, worse than that, I think it is an alarmist suggestion. The information I have received from the industry and from the clothing and textile board indicates that while we may have difficulties as a result of a slowdown in Canada and as a result of some imports into Canada, the long term future of this industry is good. Indeed, the government accepted all of the recommendations of the clothing and textile board in respect of its substantial report with one exception, which had to do with polyester yarn. We put that on the import control list and we have it under a very close monitoring process at the present time.

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a supplementary question which will bring at the same time supporting evidence to my previous question, since in my region two textile companies informed me last weekend, one, that it may have to close down within three months, and the other, that it will reduce its personnel by 50 per cent. And to this information it was added—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member must ask his question.

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[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INFLATION—NATURE OF AGREEMENT MINISTER DESIRES FROM FISHING INDUSTRY IN SEEKING CONSENSUS ON RESTRAINT**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, having regard to the consensus program, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance what kind of agreement he is seeking from the fishing industry? Does he expect the industry to hold its prices, or what proposal is he making?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, at the moment we are exploring with the agricultural and fishing industries how best they can fit into this program of monitoring of our economy, but roughly the same answer would apply to the fishing industry that I gave earlier in respect of agriculture. One wants to encourage the production of the fishing industry.

INFLATION—SEEKING OF CONSENSUS ON RESTRAINT FROM MINING COMPANIES—POSSIBILITY OF TWO-PRICE SYSTEM FOR MINERALS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I take it there would be no request to the fishing industry to hold its prices, but with regard to minerals mined in Canada, will the Minister of Finance indicate what is being asked of the mining companies? Are they being asked to hold their prices except in cases where their costs go up, and particularly when the minerals are