

Government Organization

California included. The hon. member also made the suggestion that we should very soon send a mission to the Pacific rim. I am looking into that. But as a "cash advance payment" I might use this occasion to say that I will be going to some countries of the Pacific after the Japan-Canada ministerial meeting in April. I suppose that a two-man mission, my deputy minister is also coming, is not as good as the kind of mission the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour had in mind, but this should be an indication of our interest in the Pacific as a trading area.

I had some intelligent comment to make at this point on the fact that it is very difficult for the Canadian government, in answering the numerous requests that are made on it, to establish priorities in trade matters. The moment somebody says that Latin-America is very important and the government agrees that a mission be sent there, somebody else mentions the tremendous importance of the Pacific rim and we all agree that we could send a mission there too. Somebody the other day was telling me that Germany is so tremendously rich that obviously we should have a mission there. The West Indies are very important also for us, and we should not neglect Europe or the United Kingdom which is still a very important market. And eastern Europe is also very, very important. China, obviously, is extremely important, and Russia should not be neglected either. Consequently, where do we go first? I think the conclusion might now be drawn that Canada is one of those countries which has an interest all over the world and consequently should be present everywhere. This does not solve the question of establishing priorities.

[Translation]

The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard) and the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) said most interesting things about the textile industry. I can confirm that the study referred to is going on at present. It is an attempt to identify the sectors of the textile industry that are profitable, quite so, in order to promote their further growth and make them even more profitable. The study is also designed, unfortunately, to identify a number of sectors that are less profitable, and then, this is the problem: what are we to do with those sectors?

As far as I am concerned, I find the industrial readjustment principle contained in the automobile agreement and contained as well in the Kennedy Round agreements extremely sensible and human. The purpose of that

[Mr. Pepin.]

study is precisely to determine whether it is possible to think in those terms also with regard to the less profitable sectors of the textile industry.

I hesitate to deal with those matters, because there are so many things to be said. The hon. member for Trois-Rivières mentioned a number of them in reply to the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe who had assumed that I knew all about it. One of the things that should be said is that even though governments are quite willing to take a human attitude toward the problems of industries, it might be detrimental to them to maintain plants and industries unable to survive and to prosper. Very often, it is a bad service to render an unsound industry to give it millions of dollars in order to deteriorate further or more decently, when we know full well that any day, it will have to close down and that other factors than imports play a very important role in the plight of some industries. I took the member for Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot (Mr. Ricard), to task earlier, because he did not emphasize enough the fact that imports are not the only factor responsible for the plight of a number of plants but that in many cases, those plants have not been modernized, do not have the kind of management they should have, because if they were well managed, they would not be in such a predicament.

As I said earlier. I would need much more time to look into every aspect of those problems.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I should like to mention to the minister that I have nothing against the word "Bagot", but my constituency is called Saint-Hyacinthe.

Mr. Pepin: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, there were changes everywhere, which only proves that progress is with us.

I would have a few words to say also to the member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe) who spoke in defence of the small industry. While listening to him, I happened to think that the kind of help he wanted us to give industry was likely to turn it into big industry. And then, of course, he would be the first to think that we are helping too much that big industry. This type of remarks is due perhaps to my somewhat strange character.

My department makes all its services available to the small industry and I could give a list of several things we can do for it. But there is no doubt that it is largely the big