

Supply

Canada and in each instance we ran to Washington to beg for special measures.

If we are to be logical and rational, we must do something that will open those markets rather than close them. If those protectionist measures are implemented there, tens of thousands of jobs will be lost in this country. While we are asking for freer access to a market that we consider critical, it would be illogical to close ourselves to the rest of the world.

A plan has been put into effect to ease any suffering in one industry towns. That plan is contained in the report and the Minister for International Trade and the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) have alluded to it. That plan will be effective and continue to produce employment in our communities.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions or comments. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg North has the floor.

Mr. Gagliano: At the beginning of his remarks, the Hon. Member for Dollard (Mr. Weiner) mentioned that the Conservative Government had almost given in to the threats of the United States or the European Economic Community, or was afraid of them, and that it was for this reason among others that it had failed to maintain these quotas. I would like to know what the Member has to say about the fact that in this same promise that several Members read today, the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said that he would not give in to the pressures of the Common Market and the United States to reduce the quotas on imports of shoes and textile products in Canada. Also, the Hon. Member mentioned that he was very concerned about under-developed countries and that this action to remove the quotas on imports of shoes here in Canada would have helped these countries. Does he have as priority to safeguard the jobs of Canadians instead of the jobs abroad?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The period for questions and comments is now over. Resuming debate. The Hon. Member for Saint-Léonard-Anjou (Mr. Gagliano).

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard-Anjou): Mr. Speaker, since I did not get an answer to my question, I will continue debate on this very important motion. I certainly do not intend to read the Prime Minister's promise, as I think we have already done so on a number of occasions, but I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the people of the riding of Saint-Léonard-Anjou are asking themselves today, after this about-face of the Prime Minister, and they are asking me: Is the Prime Minister a man of his word? On May 4, he said he was not going to remove the quotas, and now a year later, he is lifting them. It is not the first time he has made an about-face, Mr. Speaker. We saw this at the very beginning of his term, when he challenged the universality of social programs. He had said it was "a sacred trust", but nevertheless, he decided to challenge universality.

The House will recall the Budget brought down in May 1985, and the demonstration held by senior citizens. We had to bring our senior citizens here to Ottawa to make the Government understand that it should not de-index their pensions.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether, during the summer of 1984, when the Government promised Canadians the moon and whatever else it could promise them, it really intended to keep its promises. I think Canadians have been duped by all these promises.

Mr. Speaker, another promise was made when the Prime Minister said that once he had formed his Government, he was going to cut the paper burden that Canadian businesses had to deal with. And right away, in his first message on the state of the economy, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) said he intended to look into the added value tax system. In fact, it is systems like these that have at least tripled our bureaucracy and the amount of paperwork that has to be done.

Mr. Speaker, if we look at Europe, we see that over there, the system penalizes not just small businesses but all other businesses as well. It is a very complex system, a system that also tends to take money out of the pockets of the low- and middle-income consumer. However, the Government is not concerned about its promises, and according to some businessmen, some pressure groups are convinced that in time, the Minister of Finance will be announcing his new tax system.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we must ask ourselves: If footwear quotas are lifted, what is going to happen to the textile industry? The problem is exactly the same! Nevertheless, questions have been asked and the matter is being considered. Only today, the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Kelleher) said they were looking into all this and that they would be making a decision. Considering the decision they made on the shoe industry, after giving us the same story, it is pretty obvious they will make the same decision to lift quotas, this time on textiles.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of jobs are at stake. We are not just talking about shoes and textiles but about jobs, and especially in the province of Quebec. We have a problem with Montreal East and now we will add other areas in Quebec which are affected by this decision on quotas in the footwear industry, and later we will add those in the textile industry, What is going to happen? Quebec will be completely shut down in the same way as the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) shut down Shefferville.

An Hon. Member: No, no.

Mr. Gagliano: But that is what will happen. My hon. colleague does not like it. But this is reality. The Parliamentary Secretary said earlier that 302,000 jobs were created.

How come then that we lose 5,000 jobs in Montreal East? How come that 20,000 jobs are in jeopardy in the footwear