

of how the proposed zoning arrangements will affect the permits to which he has referred, but I will be glad to keep the hon. member—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must interrupt the minister. Unless he wishes to return to motions and make a statement I suggest he might allow the hon. member to ask a supplementary.

Mr. Douglas: In view of the fact that permits for seismic operations must inevitably lead to oil drilling permits unless the government breaks faith with those who take out the permits, and in view of the commitment made by the Minister of the Environment that the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources intended to revoke these permits, may I ask the minister whether it is now the policy of the government to revoke all oil exploration permits off the Pacific coast?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I would point out that if seismic studies indicate there is no field there, then, of course, there will be no drilling.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): With regard to the—the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands seems to have a lot more to say, so I will sit down.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

POSSIBLE REVISION OF POLICY RESPECTING IMPORTATION OF TEXTILES AND FURNITURE

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Since it is difficult for Canadian textile and furniture industries to compete, as a result of the present policy under which too many imports are flooding the Canadian market, is the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member should ask a question. He should not take advantage of a question to put forward an argument. He should ask his question as quickly as possible.

Mr. Fortin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Owing to that problem, is the minister considering the opportunity of altering that foreign trade policy in favour of the Canadian market.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am truly offended, considering that the policy respecting textile products is now recognized by both employers and employees as one of the federal government's big successes. I am surprised by the reaction of my hon. friend.

I cannot explain the whole policy once again; he should have knowledge of it.

25020—51½

Inquiries of the Ministry

As for textile exports, in the primary sector, they exceed 100 million, while clothing exports are close to 90 million—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Malpeque.

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• (1430)

[English]

TRANSPORT

INCREASE IN BORDEN-TORMENTINE FERRY SERVICE TO EXPEDITE RAIL FREIGHT

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport. Since the air traffic control facilities are now functioning at a level which allowed the minister to make a welcome visit to Prince Edward Island yesterday, can he now give some assurance that the capacity of the Borden-Cape Tormentine ferry service will be increased so that rail freight especially can be handled more expeditiously during periods of bad ice conditions?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think I can give that assurance. We had some very useful discussions with the government of Prince Edward Island yesterday. The immediate difficulty does not appear to be with the ferry services themselves but with the shortage of reefer cars. I am told that approximately 100 of these were moved to the island or were on their way to the island over the weekend, and the situation does seem to have been relieved quite a bit. So far as the question of ferries is concerned, capacity would seem to be adequate and we intend to keep it that way.

SUMMERSIDE, P.E.I., AIR SERVICE—RESULT OF DISCUSSION WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister regarding his conversations yesterday with the government of Prince Edward Island. I believe that one of the purposes of his visit was to determine the adequacy of air services, particularly in view of the termination of air service by Eastern Provincial to Summerside. Can the minister report on the difficulties that are being encountered by business people in the Summerside area, and can he also indicate the reasons for the dismantling of the air terminal in light of the fact that EPA was granted a suspension for only two years, not a complete termination of service?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the second part of the question I would imagine that is a matter for the airline itself to decide. It is their property, if they choose to dismantle it.

With regard to the first question, we had a lengthy discussion with a delegation from Summerside yesterday and a number of alternatives were discussed. I put forward some; the group from Summerside put forward others. We are now in the process of comparing these suggestions with the objective of restoring some form of air service, the best and most desirable form of air service, to Summerside.