

*Oral Questions*

provinces will be so that the U.S. Senate and the administration will have a clear idea for the first time what our bargaining stance will be in the talks?

**Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, we will be notifying the Americans quite clearly, fully, and forthrightly about our position in the talks if and when the Americans decide they wish to have those discussions with us.

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[Translation]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

LIBYA—INQUIRY WHETHER UNITED STATES DISCUSSED PLANS WITH CANADA—CANADIAN POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. On the weekend, an American envoy discussed the situation in Libya with Governments in Europe, and he referred more specifically to the possibility of using military force against the Libyans.

My question for the Government is simply this: Did the Americans discuss the plan with the Canadian Government before the weekend, and if so, what did the Canadian Government have to say?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister assured the House last Friday, both in his press conference and in response to questions in the House, that the Government of Canada remains in very close continuous touch with the United States, and in so far as the safety of Canadians in Libya is concerned, the Prime Minister last Friday in the House of Commons again drew attention to his statement of January 10, and suggested that Canadians should once again take stock of the situation in Libya *vis-à-vis*, their own individual safety.

## UNITED STATES PROPOSALS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, this is an extremely important matter, as I am sure the Deputy Prime Minister realizes, and he did not answer the question.

Since the Americans are discussing very specific proposals with the Europeans, were they discussed directly with the Government of Canada and, if so, what was our reply? It is an important matter that could potentially affect directly some 1,300 Canadians in Libya.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I differ with the hon. gentleman. I did answer his question by saying to him that the Government of Canada remains in close and continuous touch with the Government of the United States, particularly with respect to the safety of our citizens in Libya.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Tell us the truth. The answer is no.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order, please. A supplementary question.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, we saw how close the Government was in touch on trade matters by the action in the U.S. Senate last week. I hope it has been in better touch, in advance, of an American decision on this matter.

● (1425)

## SAFETY OF CANADIAN CITIZENS IN LIBYA

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** The Minister referred to the answer the Prime Minister gave on Friday in which he said: “—there is no immediate cause for undue concern for Canadians”. How does he square that with the following, said by a spokesperson for the Department of External Affairs on the weekend: “We have twice advised Canadians to look to their safety”? Could the Deputy Prime Minister tell us if Canadians are in danger in Libya? If so, have they been informed directly of their danger? Has the Government of Canada taken action to get them out, if need be?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I think the short answer to that is absolutely.

**Some Hon. Members:** Absolutely what?

**Mr. Nielsen:** Those who ask the question “Absolutely what?” obviously were not listening to the question. If they read the question in the “blues” they will find that that is an adequate answer. I assure all Members of the House that we are indeed in very close and continuing consultation with the Government of the United States—

**Mr. Ouellet:** You’re taking your orders directly, that’s what you’re doing.

**Mr. Nielsen:** —with respect to the situation in Libya and the safety of Canadians—

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** They don’t consult us, they tell us.

**Mr. Nielsen:** —indeed, as recently as less than a half hour ago.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Will you share some of that with us?