

[English]

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, it is true that in the direct funding to provinces there will be less money. However, I can also assure the Hon. Member that through the Canadian Jobs Strategy training that will go to provinces and community colleges indirectly, the provinces will be able to acquire more moneys provided they make their systems relevant to the needs of people who want to get into the job market.

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● (1130)

### TRADE

#### SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORTS—CANADIAN POSITION

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I was in Washington on Wednesday and our Ambassador, Allan Gottlieb, argued both the political and legal aspects of this case before Secretary of Commerce Baldrige. You cannot have it both ways. If our official representative of Canada—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Fulton:** The Minister, I am sorry.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you. Will the Hon. Member now put his question through the Chair, please?

**Mr. Fulton:** The Minister cannot have it both ways. He cannot tell the House that his Government cannot argue the political case when our own government representative has. Why has the Government not argued more effectively the political case, particularly in the Prime Minister's letter?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, what the Opposition is alleging is that there has been an indifference by the Government of Canada to the—

**Some Hon. Members:** Right on!

**Mr. Broadbent:** By the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** —interests of Canadians affected by this case. The facts prove that wrong. There has been a number of representations made by the Minister of Finance, by myself, by the Ambassador, as the Hon. Member just admitted, and by a number of people—

**Some Hon. Members:** Where is the Prime Minister?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. In fairness, Hon. Members who put questions should at least listen to the answers rather than simply shout at Ministers. The Minister may want to conclude his answer.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** What the Opposition is asking the Prime Minister to have done is to have intervened improperly

### Oral Questions

in a quasi-judicial matter in the United States. That would have been wrong and that would have prejudiced the case of Canada. That is why we did not do it. We believe in following international law, and we believe in advancing the interests of the people of Canada, not putting them at risk.

#### POLITICAL CASE

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. This is an outrageously hostile act by the U.S. administration, and I want to get some clarification from the Minister. It is clear—

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Fulton:** My question to the Minister is: Why, if it is appropriate under U.S. law for our Ambassador to argue the politics of this, did the head of state of Canada, the Prime Minister, not argue that, either in the June 2 letter or prior to today's announcement?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, let me clear up a couple of things. First, it is not an outrageously hostile act.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Caccia:** What is it, then?

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Second, the Prime Minister is not the head of state of the country. Third, there are many cases where political issues are raised by representatives of the Government of Canada. That is entirely appropriate. What opposition Members have been asking for, until they slightly changed their case today, is for the Prime Minister to intervene improperly in this case.

**Some Hon. Members:** Come off it!

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** This Prime Minister is not going to do that.

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### DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION

#### MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It concerns the conduct of her Department. Yesterday we were told that she did not receive a memo from her Deputy Minister for 55 days. I now have a secret letter from the Deputy Prime Minister to her, criticizing her for not writing her own letters or signing her own letters. In the letter the Deputy Prime Minister says: "You know as well as I do"—