

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Crosbie:** You got your clap there, Lloyd.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order. Before we hear the answer, could everyone on both sides of the House remember that when the mikes are on, they are on?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have not changed my position. I leave that to the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

## LEGISLATION AFFECTING TAKEOVERS

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and concerns the insidious mobilization of corporate concentration which may destroy competition, and mean exploitation of the average consumer. When will Canada have effective competition and anti-combines laws to curb the voracious appetites of giants such as Gulf Canada, Imasco, and Petro-Canada, companies which, ironically, use the deposits of average Canadians to borrow billions of dollars to achieve these takeovers?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, there is a new piece of legislation before the House and, as he probably knows as well, this new Bill does contain a provision that will allow the Government to review proposed mergers before they take place. Since there is unanimous consensus among Canadian businesses and the different consumers' associations, I urge all Parties to give quick passage to this legislation for the benefit of all.

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**AGRICULTURE**

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FARMERS—REQUEST FOR STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Since last fall Prince Edward Island farmers have been asking the Government for stabilization payments to cover their losses for the 1984-85 year and the 1985-86 year. As we head into the spring planting season, there is still no answer. Will the Prime Minister tell the House why Island farmers have not received an answer to this point and what is holding up the decision?

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)):** Mr. Speaker, the federal Government realizes that there is a serious situation in the Maritimes and the matter that the Hon. Member raises is presently under discussion. I

will make sure that the Minister of Agriculture is made aware of it upon his return to the House.

## REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, time is running out for farmers in Atlantic Canada. If they are going to get a crop in, they have to have some assistance immediately. Will the Minister tell the House specifically when assistance will be forthcoming? We have to know, and we have to know right away.

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)):** Mr. Speaker, I am a farmer and I realize full well that assistance has to be made known before the farmers plant. We very much realize the situation in Prince Edward Island and will make sure that any announcement is made in time for it to be of some assistance to farmers prior to spring planting.

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**TRADE**

## LUMBER EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES—PROTECTION OF CANADIAN JOBS

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. When the United States last imposed protectionist laws against Canada in 1971, Canada passed an Act called the Employment Support Act which safeguarded 22,000 jobs against U.S. import surcharges. Did the Prime Minister tell Mr. Reagan and Congress last week that this Act will again be used to counter any U.S. legislation which is passed against our lumber exports?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the discussions between the Prime Minister and the President, and indeed discussions that I had earlier with Secretary Shultz, and discussions other Ministers have had with representatives of the United States administration, have covered a wide range of issues. We did not see it necessary to go down there in a threatening mode.

If the Hon. Member is raising this question, he should certainly rest assured that the Government of Canada is not only going to protect the interests of Canadian job holders but it will continue upon an economic policy which has been far more effective than any range of threats or protective measures, an economic policy of stimulating the private sector so that we can have the record performance in job creation in Canada that has marked the last 18 months.

## EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT ACT

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, there are 160,000 jobs at risk here and I would ask the Secretary of State specifically if he is in fact aware of this piece of legislation, if he has brought it to the attention of the