

Oral Questions

Have we indicated to the Americans our agreement to a new round of negotiations, including the discussion of such subjects as stumpage fees?

And given that it is a matter clearly within the provincial jurisdiction, have we gained the approval of the provincial Governments that such negotiations can proceed at this time?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada, of course, is deeply concerned about the threat to the Canadian forestry industry that emanates from the United States. We have made it clear to the Americans, as they have made it clear to us, that there is no linkage at all between the resolution of that question and any negotiations on trade that might be entered into between the two countries.

STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO UNITED STATES TRADE
REPRESENTATIVE

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): The American chief trade representative, Mr. Yeutter, has already stated that the matter of Prentice-Hall, the matter of patents on pharmaceuticals, and the lumber trade must all be resolved before the U.S. side will undertake to go to Congress for approval to start negotiations with Canada on a trade agreement.

I ask the Minister again: are we agreeing to such negotiations on lumber, on Prentice-Hall, on pharmaceuticals? And do we consider that to be an unfair representation as a condition for getting into the trade talks which this Government has proposed?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have made a proposal to the United States with regard to discussing trade rules and trade negotiations. In so far as this Government is concerned, there will be no conditions involved from the American side that we will be accepting on those negotiations. I think it may be that the Hon. Member, without intending to do so, misread the intent of Mr. Yeutter's remarks.

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

LOGGING ON LYELL ISLAND—ARREST OF HAIDA PEOPLE

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I would like to preface my question by commending the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the commendable initiatives he took prior to the weekend regarding the difficult situation which affects the Haida people and others on the West Coast. More than 19 Haidas were arrested this morning. These particular people are well known for their peacefulness, and many of the people who are being arrested are elderly. Considering that, and considering the fact that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development just said that we should all

be making our best efforts to get negotiations under way, would the Prime Minister consider phoning directly to the Premier of British Columbia to ask for his Government's participation in these important negotiations?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I thank my hon. friend for his question. It is a troubling situation and we are doing our utmost to resolve it in an appropriate manner. The Minister has handled this situation with sensitivity thus far and I would hope the House would allow him to pursue his initiative in that sense.

PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I am sensitive to the Prime Minister's choice of words and to the delicacy of the situation. Given the urgency of this matter for the Haida people and for the others involved, if the Minister's efforts with other Ministers in the British Columbia Government, efforts which have already been considerable, do not bear fruit by tomorrow, will the Prime Minister at that point consider contacting the Premier directly?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as I think my hon. friend would allow, the question is hypothetical. I will be guided by the good counsel of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and we shall not hesitate to assume the responsibilities incumbent upon the Government and Parliament of Canada.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMAN'S LOSS OF BENEFITS

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, on November 8, a 31-year-old fisherman from Newfoundland, Harvey Hawkins, travelled to the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children to donate one of his kidneys to save the life of a 14-year-old girl, his younger sister. Because he did that, the Unemployment Insurance Commission cut off his unemployment insurance payments.

My question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration who has received notice of this question and has had time to consult her officials. Will the Minister exercise her ministerial discretion by reinstating Mr. Hawkins' unemployment insurance benefits, the only income he receives which allows him to pay his bills and support his family?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I too have concern and sympathy for the case that has been raised by the Hon. Member. As he knows, the Unemployment Insurance Act makes no provision for special and deserving cases of this kind, and neither do I as Minister under the Act have any discretion to act in these cases. However, that is one of the reasons why a case like this must be directed to the Commission of Inquiry on the Unem-