

TOKYO SUMMIT INQUIRY

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. On April 29, a full eight days before the Premier of British Columbia wrote the Prime Minister about his concerns about cedar shakes and shingles, Mr. Mike Apsey, the Executive Director of the Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia, wrote the Minister for International Trade asking that the, at that time, potential 35 per cent tariff issue be raised by the Prime Minister with the President of the United States during the course of the Tokyo Summit. I would ask the Prime Minister whether or not the Minister for International Trade brought to your attention the contents of Mr. Apsey's letter and whether or not you raised this issue with the President during the course of your meetings with him at the Tokyo Summit.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the potential for action in this regard by any country always exists. Everyone in the House, I think, recognizes the enormous pressures from protectionist sources that are on the President of the United States. This is why we included the Quebec arrangement. This is why we had the undertakings in Washington. This is why, on behalf of the Parliament of Canada, I raised the issue of more liberalized and less inhibited trade at the Tokyo Summit. That involved undertakings by the administration, a reference to which my hon. friend will find in the Quebec declaration. Anything at variance with that, we believe, was unacceptable and unexpected. This is why we have consistently defended the notion of more liberalized trade, ridding Canada of these problems and of the relationship of the threat of protectionist measures, which we believe will debilitate relations between the two countries.

• (1420)

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary question through the Chair, please.

LETTER FROM COUNCIL OF FOREST INDUSTRIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister whether or not the Minister for International Trade brought to his attention the letter from Mr. Apsey, written eight days before the Premier's letter on the very same issue. If so, did he specifically raise the matter of a potential 35 per cent tariff on cedar shakes and shingles with President Reagan in Tokyo, as requested by the Executive Director of the Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am in constant touch with the Minister for International Trade. He raises concerns not only about British Columbia products but about Newfoundland fish products, which were brought to my attention and to the attention of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. We raise them

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constantly with the President of the United States, with the Secretary of State, and with the Secretary of the Treasury. These are raised on an ongoing basis.

POSITION OF COMPANIES AND UNIONS ON COMPENSATION ISSUE

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I am concerned about a possible misleading of the House, and I hope the Prime Minister will be clear on it. Just 15 minutes ago I met with the representatives of the four companies and of the trade unions with whom he met. They told me that they flatly rejected the Government's approach on compensation. All four representatives on the business side and all four trade union representatives said that they rejected the Government's attempt to get compensation. The Prime Minister has just told the House the opposite, saying that both sides supported the Government. Is he saying that they misled me, or is he misleading the House?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: I directed my question to the Prime Minister.

Miss Carney: —I should like to respond to that question because I attended the meeting to which he referred, in the company of the Prime Minister for part of the time and in the company of the Secretary of State for External Affairs before he left for Halifax.

Mr. Gauthier: It has nothing to do with energy. Come on!

Miss Carney: I should like to point out that the statement he has made is completely at variance with the views expressed at our meeting.

PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING WITH BUSINESS AND UNION REPRESENTATIVES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister, and I hope he deals with it. The Minister has now said that what the representatives of the business community and of the trade unions told me was completely at variance with what she said they told the Government. Is the Prime Minister aware that the representatives of the business community, four leading competitive companies, and the four representatives of the IWA, flatly reject the Government's attempt to get compensation and that instead they want their jobs back? Does the Prime Minister know that?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, he does not have to yell; he does not have to yell.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!