

Oral Questions

Will the Prime Minister now demand a moratorium by the American Government on its unilateral trade restriction measures while the free trade discussions are in progress? If the Americans fail to give such an assurance, will the Prime Minister suspend the free trade negotiations?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party continues to use any argument it can to try to stop the people of Canada from achieving job security and the opportunity for new employment through trade negotiations.

Mr. Rodriguez: It's no wonder they got rid of you.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): I am not sure that the Hon. Member is interested in the response. I guess he now is. Ipsco has indicated that it will be appealing the matter through the courts. The Government of Canada will help Ipsco in any way it can.

With regard to negotiations generally, I was struck by the fact that yesterday the Premiers from all of the provinces and from four different political Parties, some of whom have some reservations about these negotiations, were prepared to put their reservations behind them in the national interest.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE INQUIRY

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Prime Minister. The Government fiddles while Canadian jobs are being lost. The Minister of International Trade assured me on April 21 that the Government was working closely with the Canadian steel industry for a favourable ruling. What assistance has the Government actually provided to Canadian steel and what does the Government intend to do to respond to this latest U.S. action?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Member should know that we are dealing with a decision by a quasi-judicial body in the United States. He should also know that if we are interested in having a better trading arrangement with the United States, or any other country in the world, we cannot do that by backing away from negotiations. We can do it by showing the kind of common front of Canada which was demonstrated by the First Ministers last night.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CANADIAN TARIFF ON U.S. PUBLICATIONS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, yesterday's tariffs on books and other publications put culture at the heart of the free trade debate despite the Prime Minister's promises to keep culture off the table. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The Minister's economic response has imposed tariff barriers on U.S. publications

imported into Canada. Does that not mean that the Canadian book publishing industry has now become a negotiating item in the Canada-U.S. free trade talks?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member must understand that this is a specific action taken in response to a specific action taken by the United States.

Mr. Marchi: Have you ever heard of the word "reciprocal"?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The matter of what is on the table in the U.S.-Canada trade talks has been addressed on many, many occasions by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of International Trade, and others.

EFFECT ON COST OF BOOKS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what I said. Will the Minister of Finance acknowledge that the tariffs imposed yesterday against U.S. book publishers will simply increase the cost of books to Canadian purchasers as well as inviting American retaliation against Canadian authors, those very persons whom the Government has repeatedly said it wants to promote and protect?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely right. We want to assist and protect authors in Canada. That is why in my Budget, in consultation with the Minister of Communications, we introduced a number of measures to support that particular industry, and we will continue to support it.

Mrs. Finestone: Now you are undercutting them.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): No, we are not undercutting them and the Hon. Member knows full well that we are not.

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AGRICULTURE

GRAIN FARMERS—REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. There was no action to resolve the grain trade crisis at the OECD in April, there was no action in Tokyo in May, and there are only minimal prospects that there will be even a discussion at GATT. Yesterday in Vancouver Canada failed to get a commitment to action from the world's major grain exporters. The Minister responsible for the Wheat Board suggested that prospects for relief are very bleak indeed.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is there a question?

Mr. Hovdebo: Will the Government give Canadian producers an even break with European and U.S. farmers and