

Oral Questions

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—U.S. POWER TO IMPOSE COUNTERVAIL DUTIES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On Monday in the House he implicitly acknowledged that a free trade agreement with the United States in which the Americans would retain the countervailing power to restrict Canadian exports, whether fish today or softwood tomorrow, could be worse than useless. The Minister said "countervail is very much at the heart of these negotiations".

Given the importance of this restrictive power, can the Secretary of State for External Affairs assure us that this constitutionally entrenched power in the United States is on the negotiating table?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I repeat what I said earlier.

CONTENT OF NEGOTIATIONS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, what the Minister said earlier is what led to the question. He didn't tell us it was on the table.

I talked to the office of one of the crucially involved Senators today in Washington who told me that a majority of the 10 Senators who voted in favour of negotiations would strongly oppose removing the countervailing authority. As the Minister has said this authority is crucial to these negotiations, as I do, and since we don't want to lose any more jobs over this incompetent Government's negotiations, is it on the table or isn't it? That is what we want to know.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Of course, Mr. Speaker, that question is in the negotiations with the United States. Just for future clarity, when I receive questions from the Hon. Leader of the NDP I will send my letters direct to Shirley Carr.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: That is dumb, Joe.

Mr. Crosbie: She is your Edgar Bergen.

An. Hon. Member: Send them to Dublin.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

CANADIAN POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I won't comment on an insult to a newly elected leader of the largest labour body in the country.

I want to ask the Minister to be specific. Since I am told that a big majority of the Senators will never give up this power, since that goes to the root of the discussions and is harmful, if retained, for Canadian jobs, will the Secretary of

State assure us that no agreement will be signed by his Government in which that countervailing power remains with the U.S. to destroy Canadian jobs?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wasn't insulting Shirley Carr. I was simply commenting on her evident power.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1430)

Mr. Crosbie: Ed bows to her.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): If the Leader of the New Democratic Party had not been so busy last week taking his instructions at the convention of the Canadian Labour Congress, he would have known that the vote of the United States Senate was explicitly without condition. There are no preconditions to that negotiation. Of course this matter is going to be part of the negotiations. Yes, we very much expect that we will be able to make progress on it.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

MINISTER OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and is with regard to the loan affair. On December 18, 1983, the Conservative Leader said on the television program *Question Period*: "There will be conflict of interest guidelines which will be absolutely watertight and there will be a penalty for not observing it". When will the Minister in question be punished? Will this punishment be his dismissal from Cabinet?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): That, too, Mr. Speaker, is a prime example of total disregard for a fundamental principle of justice in this country namely, the presumption of innocence. As I have said to other Hon. Members, if that Member has a charge of dishonourable or criminal conduct by the Minister, he is free, if he has the courage to do so, to make that charge—

Mr. Ouellet: It's your responsibility.

Mr. Nielsen: —and to take advantage of the processes and procedures which are available to him in our system to follow through.

[*Translation*]

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL DEMAND RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, crime has nothing to do with it. The Prime Minister said in the House on September 9, as reported at page 6399 of *Hansard*: The Government must be able to provide competent