

*Oral Questions***TRADE**

## STEEL EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. Would he inform us what action the Government is proposing to take to protect Canadian steel companies, specifically Ipsco, from countervail duties which the U.S. Commerce Department recommended against certain Canadian steel products? As well, will he assure us that the Canadian Government will assist Canadian steel companies in the fight against pending anti-dumping measures in the United States?

**Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I assure the Hon. Member that I am well aware of the problems which the steel industry is suffering these days, particularly since I have a steel industry in my own riding. We worked very closely with the industry in respect of the recent ruling in the United States. There has yet to be an injury ruling, and it is expected by the end of May. Again we are working closely with the industry in respect of that finding. I can also tell the Hon. Member that, this afternoon, officials of Ipsco are meeting with my officials to discuss these various problems and the upcoming hearings.

## CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same Minister. Could he assure us that the Canadian Government will in no way cave in to the U.S. interests seeking to tie this issue to any free trade discussion as a precondition?

**Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I can repeat what the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and I have already said, that there are no preconditions to these talks which we hope to initiate with the United States. That just is not there. We are doing everything we can to assist the steel industry with the difficult problems which it is presently facing.

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[Translation]

**AIRPORTS**

## FIREFIGHTERS' IMMINENT STRIKE

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. At midnight, 1,400 firefighters at airports across the country will go on strike. What emergency measures have been taken by the Minister to ensure that the safety of the travelling public will not be jeopardized by this strike?

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, these positions are

designated and it is illegal for them to strike. In the event that there are any disruptions, adequate contingency plans will be in place.

[Translation]

## INQUIRY WHY FIREFIGHTERS HAVE NOT HAD WORK CONTRACT FOR LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What justification does the Minister have for the fact that these firefighters have not had a contract since November 1984, and that apparently, they are being paid about \$10,000 less than their counterparts working at municipalities near our airports?

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as I am sure the Hon. Member is aware, this is a matter for negotiation between the firefighters' union and the Treasury Board. Those negotiations have been going on, and I would hope they would be able to reach a satisfactory conclusion soon.

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**TRADE**

## THREATENED USE OF SUBSIDIES TO SELL UNITED STATES WHEAT TO SYRIA

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister and concerns an important western issue. Late last week the American Government announced that it was prepared to use the huge subsidies in the American Farm Bill to try to promote the sale of 700,000 tonnes of wheat to Syria. Is the Prime Minister aware that, by using the massive subsidies in the U.S. Farm Bill, the Americans are poised to capture a very important traditional wheat market that was enjoyed by Canadian farmers?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I will comment on this particular issue because it came up at the OECD meetings last week in Paris. At that time I raised the matter of a potential trade war in the grains markets as a result of actions being taken by the United States and by eastern and western Europe. The Secretary of State for External Affairs and I had an opportunity to discuss it with a number of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Finance who were at the meetings. It is a matter which we expressed with a good deal of vigour because we are very concerned about the outcome. It is still early days to see how it might develop in the international discussions, but they are certainly aware of the point of view taken by Canada.

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance. Since