

Oral Questions

President of the United States as we are. We all heard what he said here this morning. What he told us, in addition to what was said here, is that the United States is just beginning to look at all of these policy problems, and their administration will be in a position to give fuller expressions of their views in several months.

NATURE OF UNITED STATES GUARANTEE

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, some months ago we had guarantees. A little before that they were ironclad guarantees. Now we have, according to the words of the President of the United States uttered in this chamber not many hours ago, a very clear commitment that the Government of the United States would see this proceeding only by way of private money, in other words—without any question of interpretation—without government guarantee. Nothing could be clearer than that.

I presume the Government of Canada had discussed this matter at some length when it saw that the guarantees which the minister of energy said existed did not exist. I presume the Government of Canada discussed this at some length. Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs answer my question? Does the Government of Canada today have a firm guarantee from the Government of the United States that the pipeline will be built? Yes or no? It is a simple question.

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, my interpretation of the words of the President, which we all heard, is that we do have a firm guarantee. I believe there is no difference in the commitment, as he expressed it, from the commitment we have had. The U.S. administration is only at the beginning of a review of many aspects of its policy, and we will have fuller statements of U.S. policy, and the means which the United States intends to follow to achieve these, in the months to come.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, what is the nature of the firm guarantee?

Mr. Fulton: A handful of jelly beans.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacGuigan: Madam Speaker, the other party seems to be having its own private joke over there.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): They are a joke.

Mr. MacGuigan: We heard the commitment which was given by the President here today that the United States would proceed with the pipeline, that it was a national objective for the United States.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, what we heard was that the United States would proceed with private money. What the minister of energy has been saying was that the United States

would give government guarantees. What he has been saying has now been denied by the President of the United States.

An hon. Member: Listen to the facts.

Mr. Clark: We would like to know what the position of the Government of Canada is.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS—STEPS TO RESOLVE DISAGREEMENTS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Let me ask a more general question then, since the minister seems to have difficulty with a specific question. If we can judge from the remarks of the Secretary of State for External Affairs yesterday and from the tone of the remarks of the President of the United States earlier today, while there remain disagreements on some specific and important questions, there is a general willingness to resolve those disagreements which are outstanding between our two countries. Could the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us what specific steps have been put in place to ensure that we will be able to resolve the disagreement on the fishery question, to resolve the acid rain problem, the Garrison, the Skagit Valley and auto pact disagreements? What specific steps have been put in place?

An hon. Member: Get it in writing, Joe.

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, it would take me a long time to outline the specific steps in each of these areas because there are different forums of consultation for which provision has been made with respect to many of those problems. In fact we did hear assurances and commitments from the President in a number of areas which have not previously been made by his administration. With respect to environmental problems, he undertook best efforts to clear up the water and air environment to our satisfaction. With respect to Garrison, he gave us a stronger undertaking that they would not proceed in any way which would imperil the quality of our waters.

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FISHERIES

CONSERVATION OF STOCKS ON GEORGES BANK

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Secretary of State for External Affairs who will recall that in response to a question I put to him on Monday about the cancellation of the east coast fisheries treaty by the United States, he replied:

It seems that American fisheries officials have not shown themselves capable of adequately protecting fish stocks. This is what troubles us more than any other single thing about the American decision.