

which we have been carrying on. We are delighted to see that the Government of Ontario is also doing that. There will continue to be the fullest possible exchange of information between the Governments involved. There will be discussion on Thursday, during the First Ministers' Conference, of the steps we will be taking to continue to ensure the fullest possible participation of the provinces in any trade negotiations which might ensue with the United States.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate the credit to the Ontario Government for not only doing the studies but for making them public, something the Government of Canada has refused to do with its studies. When will the Government provide Canadians with a proper and comprehensive assessment of what will be the job impact and the job losses in various sectors, so that there will be a basis for proper negotiation and that the provincial Governments, as well as all other Canadians, will not be held in the dark and hostage to the kinds of proposals being put forward by the Government?

● (1420)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there may be some danger, if anyone listens to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry, that Canadians will be held hostage to nonsense. I think the facts speak for themselves about the degree to which this process has been accompanied by extensive consultation across the country and extensive involvement of the provinces to a degree that, indeed, has not before been paralleled in our country. That is the way we have started and that is the way we intend to continue to proceed.

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

LOGGING ON LYELL ISLAND, B.C.—INTERVENTION BY PRIME MINISTER REQUESTED

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker I have a question for the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister knows that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development sent a telegram yesterday to the Attorney General of the Province of British Columbia. The Prime Minister will also probably know that as of the time of Question Period today, no reply was sent back by the Attorney General of British Columbia. Considering that the situation of the Haida people and the entire community of Lyell Island remains extremely serious, will the Prime Minister himself now take direct action by contacting the Premier of the Province of British Columbia to ask the Premier to join with all other participants, including the federal Government, in reaching a negotiated settlement of this very important matter?

Oral Questions

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): My hon. friend is a little late. I have already spoken with the Premier of British Columbia. We hope to find an appropriate time to meet in Halifax during the First Ministers' Conference. As I have indicated, I will raise not only my concerns and those expressed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development but those of other Members of the House as well.

DISCUSSION AGENDA INQUIRY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I compliment the Prime Minister for taking that action. In his conversation with the Premier of British Columbia, did the Prime Minister raise the question of the subject matter of the discussions? Is it now the intention that the Government of British Columbia will put on the agenda for discussion the Haida claim as well as the specific and immediate circumstances of Lyell Island?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend is aware of the complexity and the sensitivity of this issue. It is important, pursuant to what the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has been attempting to do, that I follow through with the Premier, which I have done. Hopefully we will have a discussion in Halifax which will be beneficial.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER REPORT ON OUTCOME OF TALKS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, could Members of the House also assume that after that conversation that takes place on this very basic matter, the Prime Minister will report back to the House on this matter as well as other matters on which he may wish to report to us following the First Ministers' Conference?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would certainly let my hon. friend know about any relevant developments in this matter and others as well.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

INQUIRY IF MINISTER AUTHORIZED ATTENDANCE OF DEPUTY MINISTER AT DINNER FOR BUSINESSMEN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS IN MONTREAL

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Could the Minister inform the House whether he personally authorized Mr. Hartt, his own Deputy Minister, a non-partisan senior official, to attend a private businessmen's dinner in Montreal in order to explain the Government's financial policy?