

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PROCESSING OF FISH—GATT DECISION

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, speaking about the free trade agreement, and as the finishing touches are being put to the economic marriage between Canada and the United States, we find that the Government's fiancé to the south is now charging us with unfair trade practices in exporting salmon and herring. What caused this prenuptial nastiness on the part of the United States? We have already given away too much in the dowry to the United States. Is it possible that we now have to give away the right to process our own fish?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, may I point out that this is a decision of the GATT which has been leaked during a period of consultation. We have received the report. We are very conscious of the number of jobs involved in this industry on both our coasts. We are looking at what options are available to us in consultation with the unions involved, the industries involved, and the provinces involved.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, this rule to which the United States is now objecting was made in 1905—some 82 years ago. The fact of the matter is that the Government does not have the political will to protect Canada's position before the GATT and that the United States sees this weakness as an open sesame to seize control over our natural resources.

Will the Minister not admit, realize and agree that it is absolutely necessary for the East Coast fishery and the West Coast fishery to have absolute control over the procedure of actually being able to decide how fish will be processed? If the Government does not rebuff this American attack it will have disastrous effects on the future of the fishery in Canada right from Newfoundland to British Columbia.

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, it is only fair to point out that this attack on the GATT by the Liberal Party is in direct violation of the Leader of the Party who upholds the GATT as the only way in which we should settle these international disputes. Why do members of that Party not get their act together with respect to their position on the GATT?

GATT RULING—CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade. Since the jobs of between 6,000 and 8,000 Canadian shore workers have been placed in jeopardy by the preliminary GATT ruling against Canada's prohibition on the export of

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unprocessed salmon or herring, and since the trade agreement with the United States very clearly states that "both parties have agreed that they will not maintain or introduce import or export restrictions except in accordance with the GATT or as modified by the agreement", will the Minister tell us why the Government has bargained away Canada's option to accept or to reject the GATT ruling and with it the right of Canada to control its own resources in the best interests of the Canadian people?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I do not understand why the NDP, those great upholders of the GATT, those great upholders of the international global system, who, as long as it is protectionist are in favour of it—

Mr. Broadbent: Answer the question!

Miss Carney: —are taking a stand in terms of a GATT panel which concludes that we are totally guilty as charged. It does not allow any option for us to defend ourselves, to negotiate a settlement, to seek solutions, and to find an acceptable option which we can follow. They do not want to do that. They want us to say that we are guilty. They want us to just give away the fishing industry.

TERMS OF CANADA-UNITED STATES AGREEMENT

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister this. If that clause does not mean anything then why did the United States insist on putting it in and why did Canada accept it? I would like the Minister to confirm that this agreement will allow the processing of Canadian fish in plants in Bellingham or Seattle by American workers and that Canadian workers will be sitting on a dock in the bay whistling "The Free Trade Blues".

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I should point out to Hon. Members that should they choose to read the "Elements of the Agreement" they will find that from the very beginning and throughout the entire document we are promising on both sides as partners to this agreement to operate within the spirit of the GATT. In fact the free trade agreement itself is provided for under Section 24 of the GATT. Why they would expect us to deny our GATT obligations is beyond all reason.

In respect to this fishing dispute, I have indicated that we are concerned about the impact on the workers. We are seeking solutions—

Mr. Broadbent: Oh, boy!

Miss Carney: "Oh, boy" says the Leader of the NDP. They do not care about the effect on workers. That is why they are against the free trade agreement.