

## Oral Questions

## CANADA POST CORPORATION

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Everyone I talk to is in a better frame of mind. I do not know what is wrong with the Hon. Member.

The reason that the Prime Minister has invited the Premiers to meet tomorrow is that we are obviously at a very critical state in the negotiations with the United States.

In sharp contrast to the policy of former Governments, it has been the policy of this Government from the very beginning to involve the provinces fully in all aspects of the discussions. We intend to carry on that practice. Tomorrow the Prime Minister, and my colleague, the Minister for International Trade will report to the Premiers on our assessment of developments in the trade negotiation with the United States. That is part of the way we make this country work.

● (1440)

## UNITED STATES POSITION

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, given that we now have before us an admission of the seriousness of this meeting tomorrow and an admission of the last minute quality of it, will the Secretary of State for External Affairs share with Canadians as well—not just with the Premiers but with all Canadians—what concessions the United States is asking for in return for the dispute settlement mechanism movement about which he talked earlier in his comments?

What concessions is the United States asking for in return for that movement?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, from the beginning we have been trying to involve as broad a cross-section of individual Canadians and elected representatives as possible in the discussion of what we take into and what we might get from the trade negotiations. We wanted to do it in a way which would not mean that Canada's hand would be shown to the United States.

We have had a very good agreement, the one that worked, in consultation with the Premiers. We offered to the New Democratic Party and to the Liberal Party, as a result of the suggestion of the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville, *in camera* briefings so that they could be brought up to date on the developments in the trade negotiations without jeopardizing those negotiations.

The New Democratic Party turned that fair offer down. I do not intend now, as we move toward the deadline the Americans set under their system for these negotiations, to depart from our past practice of not communicating all our positions to the people with whom we have been negotiating, by way of the House of Commons.

## STRIKE BY INSIDE WORKERS—TIMING OF SETTLEMENT

**Mr. Jim Jepson (London East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Most Canadians are absolutely fed up with disruption in the postal service. In light of the happenings of the past few days, could the Minister tell the House whether he anticipates an early settlement of this strike?

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I always hopefully anticipate an early end to all various conflicts. In respect of this particular one, I am awaiting the assessment of Mr. Kelly who, I understand, is still with the parties.

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## CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

## OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR SERVICE

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. It concerns the silencing of the official spokesman of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. Could the Solicitor General explain why he has in effect muzzled the official spokesman of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service? What is the Government hiding? What is it afraid of?

**Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to advise the Hon. Member that his allegation is false. I have not done that. I agree with and adhere to the prime ministerial guidelines laid down in 1984.

## PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY PUBLIC SERVANTS—PRIME MINISTER'S GUIDELINES

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister, in his guidelines dated November 23, 1984, said that the Government's policy was designed "to ensure that public servants who are called upon to comment on government policy are allowed to do so on the record, and in full freedom".

The Solicitor General has instructed the official spokesman of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service not to answer questions from the media or from opposition Members of Parliament. Can he explain how his latest change in policy is compatible with the Prime Minister's guidelines with regard to information being provided by public servants?

**Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, again in reply to the Hon. Member, I have not effected any change in policy. I agree with and adhere to the guidelines laid down by the Prime Minister.