

Oral Questions

manufacturers and workers? Why is he treating this in such an offhand manner?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I am very tired of having my remarks in the House misinterpreted by the other side.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. McDougall: What I indicated was that the issues of concern were issues which had been raised in conversations between the Minister of Finance and U.S. officials with whom he met. The situation with the United States, which has been allowed to deteriorate so long by the Party on the other side, is one that we have made an extraordinary effort to rebuild. It is time that Hon. Members recognize that.

POLICY INQUIRY

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Finance has just admitted that Canada's interest had been ignored in this situation. Why are the Minister of State for Finance, the Prime Minister and their Government allowing Canada's monetary and trade policy to be made in Washington and not here in Ottawa, and in this Parliament?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, it is precisely because our Party is taking the initiative around enhancing trade and enhancing our position that the Finance Minister has regular access to people in the United States, something which the Hon. Member's Government never sought.

I can also say that the Minister of Finance has been in touch with Mr. Baker and that the issues raised at the G-5 meeting were totally consistent with the conversations which he had had with him previously.

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FISHERIES

SALE OF CANNED TUNA—PRIME MINISTER'S INFORMATION

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to see the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans going because he is an honest and honourable Canadian.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fulton: In saying that, I think the wrong man is being asked to walk the plank. My question is directed to the Prime Minister. Outside the House on Friday, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans said that full details of the Star-Kist tuna scandal were transmitted several weeks ago to the Prime Minister's office. Are you prepared to stand up in the House today and say that that is not true?

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have answered that question completely and fully. The only information that I have or I had was the information which I have just imparted to the House.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Skeena on a supplementary question through the Chair, please.

MEETING BETWEEN MINISTERS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Outside the House on Friday as well, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans stated unequivocally that he met with you on the decision to seize that tuna—

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: I just specifically invited the Hon. Member to put a supplementary question through the Chair in parliamentary terms, please.

Mr. Fulton: The meeting took place between the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The decision was made at that meeting by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to seize that product. Is that correct? Is that how those events unfolded?

● (1430)

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on Thursday morning I communicated via my principal secretary with the Deputy Prime Minister, asked him to convene immediately a meeting of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, himself, and other appropriate officials in regard to ridding the shelves of that particular product. This was conveyed to the meeting chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and it was determined that that view would be an appropriate one. It prevailed, on the recommendation of the Minister of Fisheries.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON MARKETING OF TAINTED TUNA

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. It is quite obvious that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, because of purely political considerations allowed a certain quantity of tainted tuna to be put on the market, which has now led to a crisis in the industry. My question to the Prime Minister is as follows: In order to restore the credibility of this Government and that of the industry, is the Prime Minister prepared to refer the tainted tuna question to a parliamentary committee, so that an inquiry into this whole issue can be made?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that the Minister . . . and all the explanations I have