

Oral Questions

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, all of the statements contained in that declaration are false.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I note that I started out by saying that the Prime Minister promised to keep these points off the bargaining table. Perhaps he is saying that is false too.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT CULTURAL INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL AID BE PROTECTED

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Our cultural industry and regional development assistance programs are very important for Canadians. Can the Prime Minister tell us quite clearly that his Government will protect our cultural industry and regional assistance programs in its discussions with the United States?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member only has to read the statement I made in the House two years ago, on September 26, 1985. There has been no change in the position of the Canadian Government on these two fundamental issues in the last two years.

[English]

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I must say that I hope the Prime Minister will stick to that statement right to the end as these discussions go forward.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER TERMINATE TALKS

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, given these reports in the newspapers that the United States wants major concessions, in cultural industries, in regional aid, with respect to the Auto Pact and with respect to investment freedom, will the Prime Minister do the right thing for the country now? Will he call these talks off and terminate them for good?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think even my hon. friend would agree that I and the Minister for International Trade have responded to precisely that question at least a half dozen times in this House to the Hon. Member. The answer is unchanged.

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[Translation]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

STRIKE BY INSIDE WORKERS—VIOLENCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and concerns the postal strike.

The postal service is being interrupted for the second time in three months. The last strike in June was violent and cost Canadian taxpayers \$30 million.

Why is the Conservative Government still encouraging violence in the work place? Is it its job-creation policy to hire strike breakers?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Government not only does not encourage violence, it deplores violence, and it hopes that everybody in the House deplores violence.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Andre: I of course hope, and I would hope the Hon. Member would share the wish, that this dispute could be settled by negotiation. Since the union has now started a strike and the Post Office is attempting to fulfil its social responsibility of delivering the mail, both sides are required to obey the law. I think it behooves us as responsible parliamentarians to encourage both sides to do exactly that.

HIRING OF STRIKE-BREAKERS

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Leonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that he wants to solve the strike by negotiation. Since negotiations have been going on for several weeks, Canada Post has been announcing that it will hire strike breakers. How does the Minister expect to solve this strike by negotiation when Canada Post and the Government are provoking it? Why does he not order Canada Post to stop strike-breaking activity so we will get this through with negotiation?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I see by the applause that it is the position of Members of the Liberal Party that the Post Office should shut down and there should be no mail delivered by the Post Office in view of this strike. That is fine. If that is their position, let them articulate it. The only other alternative is to acquiesce totally to the demands of J. C. Parrot.

The Post Office is trying to fulfil its social responsibility. The conciliator in the letter carriers dispute indicated it had that obligation. It is to do it in a lawful fashion, obeying Canadian law, and as the union goes on strike it has the obligation to do so in a lawful fashion and to obey Canadian law.

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CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

REPORTED SURVEILLANCE OF PEACE MOVEMENT

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, it is a grave insult to the peace movement in Canada, to groups such