

TRADE

U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON FISH IMPORTS FROM CANADA—SPIRIT OF CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responding on either international trade or fisheries. It concerns the American trade embargo, their restrictions on fresh groundfish exports from Atlantic Canada.

As I read the preliminary transcript of the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement, it clearly states that both Parties recognize that "this agreement is subject to domestic approval on both sides. Accordingly both parties understand the need to exercise their discretion in the period prior to entry into force so as not to jeopardize the approval process or undermine the spirit and mutual benefits of the free trade agreement".

My question is for whomever in the government wants to respond. Will the Government now admit that this latest provocation against our fishery undermines the spirit of that stand-still clause?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we are certainly glad to have the support of the hon. gentleman for the free trade agreement. It is the first sign of common sense on the benches over there that we have had in some time.

As a matter of fact, there are continual protests from Members opposite about protective actions taken by the United States and, when the Government brings forward a solution so there will be a lot better regime in force, they then oppose the solution.

It was on October 1, 1987, before the free trade arrangement was signed, that the United States Secretary of Commerce approved this emergency measure prohibiting imports of round whole cod and haddock under 19 inches, but he can depend upon it that we are going to press the point strongly. Since then there has been a signing of this arrangement, and that is another argument that we will press strongly.

Mr. Henderson: The Minister did not answer the question on the stand-still clause. It is obvious that the Government, in its negotiations with the United States, has been standing still while the Americans have been negotiating circles around it.

REQUEST FOR ACTION TO PROTECT FISHING INDUSTRY

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister and the Government what real action will they take with the Americans to protect our Canadian fishing industry. I do not want all those grand words and buffoonery that we hear from this Minister from Newfoundland every day. I want some action, the people of Canada want some action, and fishermen want some action.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I know the hon. gentleman is aggravated because we

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pulverized him on his little opposition day motion last Friday, so I will not take umbrage at his name calling here.

The action which is going to be taken is that we have delivered a note of protest to the United States. We have a free trade agreement that is going to reduce tariffs on Canadian fish to zilch over the next five years, so that our higher value-added processing can be done here in Canada. That is tremendous progress. The Hon. Member forgot to mention that in his comments.

If necessary, we are going to the GATT where we had success last week in connection with user fees that were imposed by the Americans. If necessary, we will go to the GATT just as other aggrieved parties go to the GATT. We are one of the 95 members that are entitled to go to the GATT, which the Member's Party and Leader support with such great affection.

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[Translation]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

OPPOSITION OF CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES TO SUPERMAILBOXES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister who answers for Canada Post Corporation. In certain municipalities—and in Jonquière's Petite France neighbourhood, to be more specific—there is strong opposition to the installation of superboxes.

Can the Minister tell me what is the position of Canada Post Corporation management concerning the installation of superboxes on their territory?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, Canada Post is introducing supermailboxes in an effort to improve service while keeping costs in line.

Of course it works with the municipalities in terms of placement of the boxes and to ensure that it is done in keeping with over-all municipal plans. However, the final decision on whether or not to use them is one which rests legally with the Canada Post Corporation.

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CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

ALLEGED INTIMIDATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WITNESSES

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. At a meeting on Monday between the Justice Committee and some 20 federal parole