

*Oral Questions*

thank the Hon. Member for his question. The report referred to in *The Globe and Mail* this morning is a preliminary release which was made public last March. It points out that there have been some problems in growth in the forests. However, when we look into it, it could be from many other causes. It could be due to spruce budworm. It could be due to climatic problems. When the study is completed, I think we will find that we will be better able to assess the matter.

**Mr. Blaikie:** I hope the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary is not doing a Ronald Reagan on us and trying to tell us that these trees are not growing because the climate is cold in Canada, or something like that.

## FORTHCOMING CANADA-UNITED STATES SUMMIT MEETING

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my matter to the Deputy Prime Minister because it is a major bilateral question between Canada and the United States. It is something for which the Government should answer, with all due respect, and not a Parliamentary Secretary.

Does the Government not realize that the acid rain question is also a dimension of the debate about softwood lumber and a very important aspect in Canada-U.S. relations? Does the Government not realize that Canada cannot afford to fail in getting the United States to act on acid rain? What does the Government intend to do, either in respect of softwood lumber, or in respect of the larger question of what the Government of Canada will be asking of the United States of America when the summit comes up in April?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, of course the Government considers the matter of acid rain very seriously. That was the subject of discussions with the Vice-President of the United States last week. Acid rain is and continues to be a high priority. We have expressed our disappointment with the United States in terms of the speed with which it is addressing the problem. I think the message has been heard loud and clear and will continue to be a subject of bilateral discussions, including the discussions between the Prime Minister and the President of the United States when they meet in April.

## TRADE NEGOTIATIONS INQUIRY

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Deputy Prime Minister would answer the question about softwood lumber and whether the Government of Canada will make an attempt to connect these two issues in its discussions with the United States. Surely it is very hard to talk about the health of the economy of any particular sector without talking about the environmental basis on which that particular sector exists. Acid rain very much affects forestry in that respect. Will the Government be seeking to re-open negotiations in respect of softwood lumber on the basis of acid rain, either immediately or when President Reagan visits Canada in April?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, of course trade will be among the top priorities as well in the discussions which will be going on and in the ongoing bilateral discussions respecting our desire to achieve a comprehensive trade arrangement with the United States. We are very pleased with the fact that we have registered the importance of this achievement in the minds of the United States, particularly in the minds of legislators, including the President.

I sense that what the Hon. Member is suggesting is that he is now seeing some value in these talks. Throughout the course of these discussions I think that sort of linkage could in fact be made. However, it is certainly part and parcel of the very important ongoing bilateral discussions. Certainly one of those aspects is the desire for Canada and the United States to achieve a comprehensive trade arrangement which would be good for Canadians, good for jobs, and good for the economy.

\* \* \*

● (1130)

## FISHERIES

## CANADA-FRANCE AGREEMENT

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Yesterday he said that Newfoundlanders were angry because of a little mix-up in telephone calls. The Deputy Prime Minister should know that Newfoundlanders are angry because of this bad deal between Canada and France. Does the Deputy Prime Minister realize that an apology is no excuse for this bad deal?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Members opposite were pressing me for an apology and I indicated that I did apologize. I would also like to say that I have had discussions with the Premier of the Province of Newfoundland, Premier Peckford. Officials and the Minister of Transport are in Newfoundland today in St. John's, if the snowstorm did not prevent them from landing there, to discuss this and other related matters with regard to the desire to resolve a dispute which has existed for many, many years. While the opposition has been very critical of the process we have established, Opposition Members have certainly not come up with any alternatives, other than the suggestion coming from the New Democratic Party that we should go to war.

## REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT CANCEL AGREEMENT

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport has said that this deal is not good enough. The Premier of Newfoundland does not agree with this deal. The fishermen of Newfoundland, whose livelihoods are affected by this deal, say it is not good enough. Will the Deputy Prime Minister have the Government tear up this bad diplomatic deal and replace it with an agreement that will be