

*Oral Questions*

respected such agreements, and especially not the Helsinki Accords? My main concern is: Is détente going to have a human or an economic face? That is the point.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as I said repeatedly in the Soviet Union, I think the Soviets must accept that if they want trade or economic relations with a country like Canada, they must have a more effective and more acceptable performance in the area of human rights.

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[English]

**LABOUR RELATIONS**

## AIR CANADA—REASON FOR STRIKE

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister and it relates to the work stoppage at Air Canada. The Acting Prime Minister will realize that the main reason for the work stoppage is the fact that Air Canada is insisting that 45 per cent of its workforce, as far as passenger agents are concerned, must become part-time. In other words, many full-time positions, which are basically women's jobs, will be eliminated. It is certainly a matter for government policy. What is the Government's policy with respect to the taking away of full-time jobs and making 45 per cent of a workforce part-time?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member will be one of the first to agree that it is not helpful to debate the elements of any discussions between management and labour, while those discussions are ongoing. It is my understanding that the discussions have been adjourned. That is an entirely normal course for negotiations of this nature to take, in order to allow assessments to be made on both sides, in preparation for hopefully soon getting back to the table. Any debate of the elements involved at this stage would, I suggest, not be helpful to that process.

## POLICY INQUIRY

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Acting Prime Minister. The Government saw fit to change the Board of Air Canada with the idea that there must be people in charge of Air Canada who know what the Government wants and who will act favourably with respect to government policies. Would it not be helpful to the management at Air Canada to know what the Government wants in terms of full-time and part-time work and what the relationship should be, especially since it has resulted in a work stoppage at this time? What is the Government's policy?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is aware that we are dealing with a Crown corporation which has the fundamental responsibility of making that kind of decision. But, in any event, I would

again suggest to the Hon. Member that it certainly would not be helpful to the process which is now ongoing, and in which the parties are now engaged, to debate the elements which we all hope will be resolved. In the meantime I am informed that Air Canada flights—as far as it has been reported in the media—have been on time and are still flying. Let us all hope that the parties get back to the table in the very near future to resolve their difficulties.

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**TRADE**

## BEEF IMPORT QUOTAS

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister and it concerns the Prime Minister's visits to London and Bonn this week. So far those visits seem to be geared mainly toward publicity and public relations. Can the Acting Prime Minister assure Canadian beef producers that the Prime Minister will urge the four heads of Government in the European Economic Community to respect our meat import law and the quotas which we have provided to EEC countries, and to press those four heads of Government to remove the threat of a countervail duty on Canadian agricultural products during the meetings in Bonn?

**Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I would advise the Hon. Member that we are still engaged in discussions with the European Community with respect to beef. Approximately an hour before I came into the House I had a personal telephone conversation with Mr. Wyllie de Clercq, the Commissioner of the EEC, with respect to this problem, and he is having a meeting with his deputies to discuss it this afternoon.

## PRIME MINISTER'S ROLE

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister as he is representing the Prime Minister. We heard the same kind of generalities after the Quebec Summit about trade problems. The President then went back to the United States and imposed a massive countervail duty on Canadian pork products, which is destroying that industry.

Why are the Government and the Prime Minister not prepared to use this meeting to solve practical problems, like the dumping of millions of pounds of subsidized beef into the Canadian market, and the threat of a countervail duty? Why is the Prime Minister, who is attending these meetings, not prepared to take advantage of the occasion to solve these practical problems for our agricultural producers?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is one of the worst offenders in this House for smuggling irrelevancies and mistakes of fact into his questions.