

[Translation]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, I will merely repeat that the Government has always maintained its intentions of developing policies to promote job creation and investment in Canada. Those policies will also apply to the pharmaceutical industry. When we are ready, we will announce our decision to that effect.

[English]

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, would you not agree that by dismantling Canada's National Energy Program and by allowing the Prentis-Hall buy-out by Gulf Western, and now by tabling changes to the Patent Act affecting pharmaceutical industries, you are going to leave Canada with very few bargaining chips left on the table when you get into serious negotiations with the United States?

[Translation]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, in my opinion the record of this Government speaks by itself. The number of jobs created and the many investments made during the past 18 months rightly prove the efficiency of this Government in the statement of its various policies.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES-LIBYA CONFRONTATION—SAFETY OF CANADIAN CITIZENS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): My question is directed to the Prime Minister. Did the Prime Minister know on Friday that the United States intended to launch an attack on Libya when he said in the House of Commons that "there is no immediate cause for undue concern for Canadians"?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the hon. gentleman that it was I, on behalf of the Prime Minister, who met with the special envoy in Ottawa in the absence of the Prime Minister. I have been involved throughout. It would not be helpful, to begin with, to respond to cross-examination as to when the Government knew what, and when it did not know something else. The fact is that we were fully and continuously consulted throughout. That is a refreshing, historical first, I would think.

PRIME MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE OF UNITED STATES INTENTIONS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister, since the words that I quoted were

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his words given in the House on Friday, did the Prime Minister know on Friday, when he said that there was no immediate cause for undue concern for the safety of Canadians—did he know at that time that the United States intended to launch an attack on Libya?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when I indicated what I did in the House I was aware of certain information beyond which I would not want to go, nor would I think my hon. friend would ask me in these circumstances to set out publicly. I can tell my hon. friend that we have conveyed on an ongoing basis our deep concerns about the safety of Canadians. We put forward political views as to certain options, and we remained in close touch and consultation with our American allies.

BOYCOTT OF COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO LIBYA

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): I would like to comment upon that question from the Member for Hamilton Mountain. I would like to direct my question to the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister. When that statement was made on Friday we did not have the current crisis. Now what the people in this country want to know is how can Canadians in Libya get out? There are no regular air flights into Libya any more; the International Federation of Air Line Pilots has boycotted it. How do we get them out? Do we have any undertaking from the Government of Libya that Canadian planes will be able to fly in and get our people out?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): That is precisely the detail which would be prejudicial, I think, to discuss in public. I can assure the right hon. gentleman that we have, on the ground in Libya, consular personnel in a well established system, which was in place when he was in Government, and they are in positive contact with Canadian citizens. If those Canadians express a wish to leave, the means are there to effect their departure.

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● (1440)

AGRICULTURE

GRAIN FARMERS—GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Yesterday in the House the Minister indicated that he recognized that Government action, including the stabilization payment, was inadequate to meet the farm crisis. He went on to say that the Government was quite prepared to do more. We thank the Government for that commitment.

Has the Minister or his colleague met with the wheat pools in the Prairies, the Wheat Growers' Association, the Farmers' Union and other farm organizations, to determine the best