

Oral Questions

Canadians 4,200 jobs. The Government referred this matter to the Import Tribunal for further study. Can the Minister say exactly when a fast-track anti-dumping mechanism will be put in place in light of the 2,000 or more jobs that may be lost in Sault Ste Marie in the next year?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that the Government very deeply shares the concern expressed by the Hon. Member. He asked me a very detailed question about a specific date. I am not in a position to provide the answer to that detailed question at this moment but I will take his question as notice and get back to him.

PREFERENTIAL TARIFF ON STEEL FROM BRAZIL AND SOUTH KOREA

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, the steel conference also heard calls this week for the withdrawal of the preferential tariff treatment given to steel from Brazil and South Korea where there are very highly advanced steel-making technologies.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Just a question.

Mr. Foster: Is the Government prepared to withdraw the preferential tariff treatment in light of the loss of jobs in the Canadian steel industry caused by these two countries with very advanced steel-making methods?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice as well and I will get back to the Hon. Member when I have information to convey to him.

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CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

PENSION ENTITLEMENT OF SERVICEMAN'S WIDOW

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. As the Minister knows, Mr. Clifford Phillip retired from the Armed Forces after 28 years of service as a Master Warrant Officer and re-enlisted as a training officer at the Forces' request, with a promise that his pension entitlements would not be affected as a result. Mr. Phillip died last week. Is the Minister aware that this promise was not kept? Will the Minister assure the House that he will investigate this matter to ensure that Mr. Phillip's widow receives her proper pension entitlement?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the last part of the Hon. Member's question is yes, we will.

BANKS AND BANKING

TREATMENT OF WESTERN OIL INDUSTRY LOAN APPLICATIONS

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. It has been brought to my attention that senior executives of the major banks have directed branch managers in western Canada not to forward or even prepare loan applications for western Canadian oil companies, or for indeed any company heavily dependent on the oil industry. Will the Minister intercede with the major Canadian banks on behalf of western Canadian businesses? If the banks continue this ill-advised and short-sighted approach to the economic problems facing western Canada, we will lose a very vital oil industry and in time that will threaten our—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the details of the question the Hon. Member has asked today. I would be happy to discuss it further with him. I should point out that just a few short weeks ago the Government did provide some relief, particularly to small oil and gas producers, so some of the pressures they face as a result of the falling international oil prices will be relieved to some extent.

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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY AMERICANS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. U.S. trade lawyers and the Governor of Michigan are asserting that Canadian efforts, including tariff remissions, to force Japanese investment in Canada are violations of GATT and pose a threat to American jobs. Is the Secretary of State for External Affairs aware of these concerns, and what has been our response?

● (1500)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, concerns of this kind are raised from time to time. What also happens, as the Hon. Member will know, is that from time to time individual American States try to resort to actions themselves, as did the States bordering Manitoba recently, on hogs. This indicates the absolute necessity for us to change a trading system with the United States which does not now work well enough for Canada. That is precisely why we are looking to try our best to achieve some arrangement in trade negotiations with the United States.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must call it three o'clock. I should explain that earlier we got out of sync in terms of who followed whom, in terms of rounds, and that is the reason I did what I did in that situation.