

is to ensure that the Canadian steel industry responds in kind, and we will launch an unfair trade practice against the United States.

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### HOG INDUSTRY

**Mr. Doug Fee (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

As the minister well knows, one of the longest running trade disputes between Canada and the United States is the dispute over American duties on Canadian hogs.

Yesterday the FTA binational dispute settlement panel ruled that the American commerce department's justification for duties on Canadian hogs was inadequate. I have had calls from producers asking me just how optimistic they should be, given this ruling.

What will this ruling mean to the Canadian hog industry and future trade between Canada and the United States?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague is right in drawing to the attention of the House the ruling by the binational panel which was established under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

That panel has said that the department of commerce in the United States was not, in its mind at this time, able to justify the amount of countervail that it has applied to Canadian hogs. It has given it 60 days to justify that.

The other important part is that it shows that Canada alone, of all the countries in the world, because of the free trade agreement has a binational panel impartial to rule against the political machinations of the department of commerce in the United States.

I take it as being optimistic that it was not able to justify its countervail, and we believe that we will again prevail in this case.

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### WESTRAY COAL MINE

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for

### Oral Questions

Small Businesses and Tourism whose best defence of the Westray deal so far is: "The bankers made me do it".

I want to ask him to tell the House not what the bank did or what the bank's interests were in this matter but what did the government do to protect the real risk here, some human lives.

Why does he not, just for his own good and the government's, quit this Pontius Pilate act and tell us—

**Mr. Speaker:** I want to make it very clear that in a 45-minute Question Period every question can be on this matter, but questions are going to have to be put in such a way that is appropriate with the decorum of the House.

The hon. member will complete his question and do it properly. I am sure he will.

**Mr. Simmons:** Mr. Speaker, the government's own agency told the minister, told the government, that this was not a safe undertaking.

Why was that advice ignored, I ask the minister? Was the urge here to be in sync with the political agenda of the provincial Tory regime three days before an election? Was it because the Prime Minister intervened in this matter, as the premier said, that this went ahead despite advice to the contrary?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, in fact the report from Devco to which he refers argued that this would be a bad idea for economic and business reasons for Devco and for Cape Breton coal mining. That was not a surprise to anybody because in fact it is true that the Westray activity would take some market share from Devco.

There was a very fleeting reference to safety but it was not a major part of the report.

This was three years before the Westray mine even began. Of course the very general and brief references to safety were more than accommodated by the construction of this mine and the procedures put in place.

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, the minister talks about fleeting references to safety. Is he telling us that those references, however fleeting, were dismissed as not being central to the government's concern?