

I therefore ask the minister to respond in more detail to the two concerns that leaders of the steel industry as well as I myself have raised. We must do everything possible to keep our steel industry healthy and viable.

Mr. Ed Lumley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes) has expressed his concern about the impact on the Canadian steel industry of both the American trigger price system and the possibility that imports of steel from foreign sources might increase dramatically. This points out the difficulty in governing a country of this size. Our colleagues in the House from British Columbia from his party as well as the official opposition and the government side have made representations in recent weeks with respect to the exemption of wide flange steel beams in the Anti-dumping Act.

In the face of the actions taken by both the United States and the European Economic Community to protect their own steel industry, our government has been active in its consultations, both with the Canadian industry and with the U.S. and European authorities, to assess the possible implications for Canada of these decisions. There have been frequent contacts between officials and the Canadian steel industry to establish the facts.

The hon. member is right to bring to our attention the possibility that the measures adopted by other countries may have some adverse impact on Canadian steel exports. I want to reassure the House that discussions will continue with a view to obtaining as much assurance as possible that normal steel shipments from Canada to these markets will not encounter undue difficulties as a result of these measures.

As to the situation in Canada, it is important for the House to recognize that the Canadian anti-dumping system is working to ensure that dumped imports will not injure Canadian producers. In the case of steel beams, steel angles and stainless steel sheet, the department of National Revenue moved early last spring to initiate investigations of complaints of injurious dumping of these products. Preliminary determinations of dumping were made early last fall and provisional anti-dumping duties were applied on imports of these products from a variety of sources. In December and last month, the anti-

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dumping tribunal, in three separate decisions, found that indeed in most of these cases the dumped imports were injuring production in Canada of this type of product.

These decisions have, in my view, helped to reassure the Canadian steel industry that the government can and will act effectively to prevent injurious and unfair competition from imports of steel products.

The Minister of Finance indicated to the House on February 7 that the government was examining these issues carefully to see whether additional steps were necessary. That examination has been completed and, as hon. members know, the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Guay) announced yesterday a series of measures to prevent diverted foreign steel from adversely affecting the Canadian steel industry. Briefly, these measures will involve the monitoring of all imports of steel mill products into Canada, the establishment of a task force to collect and analyse necessary data, and accelerated investigation procedures for anti-dumping purposes which will result in preliminary determinations of dumping and the application of provisional anti-dumping duties where appropriate within three months of the start of an investigation. The minister also indicated that the deputy minister of national revenue would use, where necessary, his authority to initiate anti-dumping investigations in the absence of formal complaints.

Hon. members will also have noted that the minister said that the various trigger prices and basic prices in use in the United States and the European community would be among the elements taken into account in deciding whether or not to initiate anti-dumping investigations in respect of steel products.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that my comments demonstrate that the government is thoroughly familiar with the issues referred to by the hon. member, is following these developments with care and, indeed, has already taken steps to ensure that this important Canadian industry will not suffer as a result of the developments to which he has alluded.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10:26 p.m.