

Oral Questions

If the Minister did not mean that we would contribute to this process by stopping the testing of Cruise missiles, what did he mean?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, unlike the Leader of the New Democratic Party, my words speak for themselves.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): There they are on the record talking about what was actually decided in Geneva. I stand by the record.

I perfectly understand why the Leader of the New Democratic Party does not want to talk about his policy and his Party's policy of pulling this country out of NATO.

Ms. Jewett: Come on, Joe, answer the question.

Mr. Broadbent: Pack it in.

Mr. Riis: Now we understand why you are not the Prime Minister, Joe.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The Leader of the NDP knows that would jeopardize Canada's and the West's ability to achieve reduction in nuclear weapons. We want weapons down. We do not want that type of false gesture for partisan purposes here at home.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

STRIKE BY INSIDE WORKERS—REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT
APPOINT MEDIATOR

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, my question is on the postal strike.

Again, the financial strait-jacket that the Government has imposed on Canada Post is giving us a postal strike. If the Government has created it, the Government at should at least try to settle it.

The last time the Government first refused to appoint a mediator, and then it waited one full week before appointing a mediator. Now we know that Associate Deputy Minister Bill Kelly is already involved. What we would like to know is the following: Is Mr. Kelly involved as an observer, as a messenger, as a notetaker, or does he have a mandate to mediate? If not, when will the Government appoint a mediator?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, if my hon. colleague had read the press release, he would have noted that Mr. Kelly was not appointed at this particular time as a mediator.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, we know what he is not, but we still do not know what he is.

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, the strike is obviously the result of the strait jacket in which the Government has put Canada Post to stop it from making reasonable offers which could lead to a settlement. Why is the Deputy Minister, Bill Kelly, reduced to taking notes during the meetings? Why can he not act as mediator? Does the Government feel responsible for settling the strike or is it simply trying to use the postal workers as political scapegoats?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, once more, if the Hon. Member took the trouble to read the press release, he would know exactly why I have asked Mr. Kelly to meet the parties involved.

As for the question of whether or not Mr. Kelly should act as mediator, which he is not doing, I would like to quote the words of Mr. Parrot as reported on page 3 of today's issue of *Le journal de Montréal*:

The presence of a mediator is useful when both parties have seriously want to come to an agreement.

This is what Mr. Kelly is now doing, Mr. Speaker, trying to determine the intentions of both parties and evaluating the situation. He will report to me after completing his evaluation.

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[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—PREMIERS' MEETING
CONVENED

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, the Premiers of Canada have been called together to meet tomorrow morning on free trade without being told what the agenda is, or without any prior briefing for their staffs.

I wish to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs, whom I just heard deliver a pessimistic speech to Canadian exporters on this subject, why has this meeting been called. Is it in hopes of some deal, or is it in fact to pull the plug?

Mr. Jelinek: Wait until tomorrow.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, you would think that after hearing a speech delivered by me the Hon. Member would be in a better frame of mind!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Riis: Why, Joe? Why would we do that?

Mr. Axworthy: Just more depressed.