

Oral Questions

Now the minister has sat on the report for over a week. He owes it to all Canadians to tell them what his intentions are. What is he going to do about the report's findings and recommendations?

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SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed with last Friday's determination by the United States Department of Commerce that Canadian stumpage charges constitute countervailable subsidies.

Further and even more astonishing is the inclusion of Canadian log export controls as a countervailable subsidy.

This determination of log export controls as a countervailable subsidy comes despite the fact that the United States has the same kind of export controls on its logs.

Canada is taking this determination to a binding binational review panel under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

Our Prime Minister was forceful in bringing this issue to the attention of President Bush. The Prime Minister did not mince his words and appropriately called this move harassment.

I am encouraged by the strong position taken by the Prime Minister and look forward to a positive and a fair conclusion to this protectionist determination. As a fair trader, we will turn our anger and frustration into action and we will be successful.

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SALMON FISHERY

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, a month and a half ago, the hon. member for Skeena warned the minister of fisheries that the United States had served notice at our embassy in Washington that it will now violate the Canada-U.S. salmon treaty, that it had overfished Fraser River bound sockeye by 510,000 last year, and it intends to do it again this year.

American fisheries and processors have formed a coalition and have mounted a huge "Salmon for Washington" campaign. This group's demands on the Pacific

salmon treaty renegotiation is over 9 million additional sockeye enter U.S. ports annually.

This means at least 5,000 new American jobs at the expense of Canadian fishers. The impact on the Fraser River salmon fishery and Canadian workers will be devastating. The minister must give us his assurance that he will be tough minded in renegotiating a treaty, and he must assure us that he will not allow U.S. fisheries to violate the existing treaty.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*Translation*]

TRADE

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, yesterday we saw the Prime Minister in Washington. He tried to be firm and decisive. However, at no time did we hear the president of the United States say that his Department of Commerce would drop trade actions in connection with Honda, magnesium and softwood lumber.

If no real progress was made yesterday in Washington, would the Acting Prime Minister not agree that the Prime Minister's conference in Washington was merely an exercise in public relations?

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the best way of answering and responding to the question of the hon. Leader of the Opposition is to quote from the press conference that was held by the Prime Minister and President Bush when President Bush stated: "I told the Prime Minister who forcefully presented Canada's case that I would work with our administration to see that these disputes receive the proper high level consideration before they go to some form of action".

I think that is a pretty clear indication of the intention of the President to take action as a result of the very vigorous representations that the Prime Minister made.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, words and words.