

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

This is a very interesting situation, Mr. Speaker. It offers some problems to the importers of raw materials from Canada. Because I feel this involves a matter of serious concern to the exporters of lumber, newsprint and other raw materials from British Columbia, I urge that this very serious question be given careful attention by the minister, that it be discussed with the appropriate authorities in the United States, and I suggest that the minister report to the house later the results of these discussions and his findings.

Mr. Albert Béchar (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance I will try to deliver to the house the answer prepared by the department to the question asked by the hon. member for Kootenay West.

● (10:10 p.m.)

The Canadian authorities have not received a report on any such decision of the United

States Supreme Court to which the hon. member refers. The Canadian embassy in Washington has been asked to investigate this matter immediately. In the event that such a court decision is confirmed, we will be in a better position to decide on what course of action might be appropriate in the light of the details of the decision. Provided the decision applies equally to domestically produced raw materials it would probably not be a direct contravention of our trade agreement rights. In any case we will be anxious to ensure that Canadian export interests are protected.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for drawing this matter to our attention.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.13 p.m.
