

Oral Questions

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, yes, indeed, I had a very direct and vigorous and, I hope, profitable exchange of views with Mr. Bush on this issue. I think he acknowledged his point of view in this regard at the press conference. I indicated to him that there had been an undertaking by the Government of the United States, in Quebec, that there would be no such action, and that this kind of action had an adverse effect upon workers in British Columbia, which we did not accept; and that, for whatever internal, political reasons motivated that, it remained unacceptable to the Government of Canada and we would continue to work in every way with them, through tribunals, working directly with the administration, (a) to bring correction to that situation on behalf of the workers in British Columbia, and (b), to ensure that it never took place again.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I hope we get some results from that, Mr. Speaker.

NEGOTIATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on the issue of what is on the table and what is not on the table, there is growing confusion resulting from comments made on both sides of the border and by the chief negotiators for each country, and that confusion is provoking uncertainty in the business community of this country, as to where investments and if investments are to be made in our industries.

Would the Prime Minister be prepared to make a definitive statement on what his instructions are to Mr. Reisman as to the areas to be negotiated and not negotiated, so that some certainty can be returned to the business community?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think, in fairness, that if there is any confusion or dismay among the business leaders of the country, it was after watching the Leader of the Opposition on television on Monday night.

We have given a mandate to a very accomplished individual, Simon Reisman, who has served with distinction, with my right hon. friend in Finance, and elsewhere, who is deeply wedded to the national interests, the promotion of those objectives that we have set, talked about, in this House. I cannot prevent an American ambassador, an American functionary, from saying "we want to talk about" such and such a thing. It is a free country. It is a free world. They can do that.

Our instructions to our people are clear and were designed to create jobs and greater wealth in Canada, if possible, through a new, bilateral, comprehensive trade arrangement.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Just a final weekly example of the confusion.

An Hon. Member: Oh, knock it off.

FINANCIAL SERVICES INQUIRY

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Minister for International Trade said yesterday, "As far as we are concerned, we intend to negotiate financial services". He admitted in the same breath that the Americans did not want to negotiate those services. Perhaps I could ask the Prime Minister, or the Minister, to explain how he squares that particular position.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, not even the serious enemies of this Government—and we have a few—would suggest that we have lacked the clarity or courage on this issue when compared with the Liberals, who have demonstrated absolutely nothing.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): You didn't answer the question.

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APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA—CANADIAN POSITION ON IMPOSITION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister. The situation in South Africa continues to deteriorate daily, and Canadians have now seen the House of Representatives unanimously support the imposition of severe economic sanctions. Canadians are wondering why it is necessary to delay further a leadership role for Canada and the imposition of effective economic sanctions at this time.

• (1120)

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I regret to hear my hon. friend say that there is a denial of a leadership role for Canada. We tried to play the traditional Canadian role played by my predecessors in other circumstances when we were in Nassau.

In this case there are two important considerations. Of course the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa, a grave and growing evil, is the objective of all Hon. Members of the House. How we do it as members of the Commonwealth is also an important strategic consideration. We may be wrong, but it is our judgment that we can best accomplish this quite noble objective by making sure that the Commonwealth stays together and that there is unity of purpose and action. That requires the measured, reasonable course of action that we have been following and on which the Secretary of State for External Affairs has set out.

I will be meeting with Mrs. Thatcher on the 13th followed by a meeting of the seven Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries in London the first week of August. It is our hope that we can contribute substantially toward advancing in