

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, April 26, 1985

The House met at 11 a.m.

• (1110)

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

### HEALTH

#### SEIZURE OF PRODUCTS FROM HEALTH FOOD STORES

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, like other Hon. Members, in the past few weeks I have received over 150 letters protesting the heavy-handed actions by the Health Protection Branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare in seizing, without warning, a number of products from the shelves of health food stores.

Some years ago the Health and Welfare Ministry learned about the falsification of tests on a variety of toxic pesticides at the IDT laboratories in the United States. These products, approved for use in Canada before the truth was learned, were allowed to remain in use while new tests were conducted. As a result, some chemicals found their way into the Canadian ecosystem. At least any harm from the use of botanical products accrues solely to the individual choosing to use them.

My constituents protest the loss, not only of access to products they find effective, but also of their freedom of action. Many question whether the move was initiated by members of the medical and pharmaceutical professions who see the health food industry as cutting in on their profits. Surely all of us can agree that health food products must be adequately labelled showing recommended quantity and duration of use. Careful labelling is a better answer than removal of the product from the shelves.

Finance. It is reported that the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. James Baker, said that at the next economic summit to be held in Bonn from May 2 to May 4—in other words, very shortly—the U.S. Government will pressure Canada to reduce its annual trade surplus with the United States. How can the Minister reconcile these comments by his U.S. counterpart with the joint statement made by the United States and Canada at the Quebec summit a few weeks ago, according to which there would be a movement towards freer exchanges between both countries?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if I could try to interpret the statement by the Secretary of the Treasury, I think he is saying that Canada has a very major trade surplus with the United States which he would like to see reduced, for obvious reasons. What I have pointed out to the Secretary is that we have a very heavy deficit on the service account, interest dividends, transportation and tourism, and that that almost offsets the other. He has said that he would like to see some change in that. We will be discussing that again in Bonn.

#### REQUEST THAT MINISTER CONTINUE EDUCATION PROCESS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, that of course does not jibe with the movement toward freer trade, if that is the position of this Government and the United States.

The Minister of Finance was apparently reported yesterday as saying that for the Bonn Summit, the Canadian Government is in complete harmony with the American position, yet the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury is looking toward a reduction in our surplus. He knows as well as I do that balancing the service and the trade account is a complicated matter, particularly if it is going to be controlled rather than by moving in a freer fashion. Any reduction in that trade surplus will hit automobiles, the forest sector, and our steel sector. When the Minister of Finance accompanies the Prime Minister to Bonn, will he continue the education process with his colleague, the Secretary of the Treasury, so that he understands the composition a little more clearly than he appears to at present?

• (1115)

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

### TRADE

#### SURPLUS WITH UNITED STATES—REQUEST FOR DETAILS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, my question is directed to the Minister of

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition that I do not see that there is a connection between what Mr. Baker said and the discussions that we had in Quebec City on the question of U.S.-Canada trade into the future. He is referring to a specific situation in 1984 and continuing into 1985. The other point that I would like to