

Oral Questions

answer I gave four times last week. No, nobody has been given a mandate to rationalize or shut down anything whatsoever.

The one thing I can tell you is that the federal Government is anxious to continue the discussions with all industry representatives so as to draft a national shipbuilding policy.

SCOPE OF MANDATE

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Of course, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Small Businesses was not even invited to the meeting.

I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs who was there. Can he confirm that he and his colleague have given Mr. Saunders a mandate to meet with the provincial Minister and other shipbuilding industry officials to end production at Marine Industries?

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)): One more time, Mr. Speaker, no, Pierre Paul Saunders was not given a mandate to rationalize or shut down any industry, either in Quebec or elsewhere.

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[English]

TRADE

LUMBER EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES—INVITATION OF
COUNTERVAIL PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I think he is aware that on May 8 President Reagan wrote a letter to Senator Packwood regarding Canadian softwood lumber in which he stated:

—I intend to press for an expedited resolution to this problem independent of comprehensive negotiations.

I am sure the Prime Minister is aware that President Reagan controls the acceptance or rejection of the countervailing action through Secretary of Commerce Baldrige. Has the Prime Minister himself, through his office, by phone or by letter, contacted President Reagan and asked that this countervailing action be stopped?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no. I think I responded to that question yesterday. We are satisfied that the mechanisms in place are designed not only to eliminate problems but to create a climate of confidence within which these problems can be resolved. That is exactly what we are trying to do—not by yelling at the problems, not by denigrating anyone, but by sitting down in a reasonable, positive, and strong way to resolve these problems on behalf of Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL AID FOR LEGAL ACTION

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, since the Prime Minister is prepared to accept a double-cross from President Reagan on a clean launch for the free trade talks, will he stand in the House today and commit funds to the Canadian forest industry so that it can at least prepare its legal defence against this unfortunate countervail action?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the allegation of the Hon. Member is denied by the words which he has quoted. The letter he has quoted from the President of the United States made reference to the fact that, as this House has been seeking, and as the New Democratic Party has been insisting, there would be a clean launch. That is what the word “independent” means.

Insofar as the question of legal support for the defence of Canadian interests by Canadians is concerned, as the Minister for International Trade made clear in the House yesterday, we intend to support the Canadian position and support Canadian interests in every way we can. If it is necessary for us to commit legal funds, that too will be done.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CHALLENGE '86

EMPLOYMENT FUNDING FOR NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY
PROJECTS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. As a result of her \$19 million cut for student summer employment this summer and her quota limiting non-profit community projects, many excellent community services for the aged, the disabled, and youth, will be eliminated. While there is still time will the Minister restore the budget for Challenge '86 to the same level as last summer and eliminate the quota on non-profit community projects?

Hon. Andrée Champagne (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, there have not been any quotas put on either private sector jobs or jobs provided by the public sector. Some 35 per cent of the applications last year came from the private sector. This year it was a greater amount. However, this year the private sector will only receive 36 per cent of the funding and the non-private sector will receive 64 per cent of the funding. I do not see how the Hon. Member can say anything against that.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is misleading this House, if not lying to this House—

Some Hon. Members: Order, order.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!