

Oral Questions

between the two Ministers, so they might decide which evidence and which facts are correct, considering that this is a \$55 million export market bearing very heavily upon the economic well-being of the area? Do you think they might try to arrange to get their act together, Mr. Speaker?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member's hearing is perhaps failing.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): You just read the story.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The facts as they have just been indicated in this House are that there has been discussion for some time with the European Community with regard to the cod question. Any discussions regarding fish with the Community, of which Spain is a member, are naturally going to be exacerbated by the controversy over the trawlers. That is the case that was alluded to by the Minister for International Trade.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, we have now had a sort of confusion compounding the complexity. We now have a third version. The Minister of Fisheries has said there is no evidence. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has said there is evidence to compound the problem. What action does the Government intend to take when the Minister for International Trade returns so that we can make a properly unified case to the Europeans to stop any harassment or any action that they are taking to stop our fish exports to the European Economic Community?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are taking a unified approach.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nystrom: It is fishy.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The Hon. Member is trying by introducing information that is not true into this House to suggest that there is confusion here, when the only confusion, as usual, resides in what some would call the mind of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

* * *

TRADE

U.S. TARIFF ON CANADIAN CEDAR SHAKES AND SHINGLES

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Forestry regarding the shake and shingle matter. As the Minister knows, the issue of compensation was always a non-starter. Unfortunately, there has been no request from the Prime Minister to lift the 35 per cent duty

which comes into effect on Friday, and retaliation is about to be taken. Does the Minister not agree that there should be fast track negotiations undertaken right now regarding market share, which could lead to the lifting of that duty and save the B.C. shake and shingle industry?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the whole country was shaken by the decision—if I may use that term—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: We have a bad case of shingles, too.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):—made by the President of the United States with regard to the 35 per cent tariff. We have been following steady and strong action since that tariff was announced to see if there were some remedy available. The Minister of Finance will be making a statement later today, I would hope if the New Democratic Party agrees, in this House of Commons, indicating the economic response by Canada to the United States in consequence of that action.

SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORTS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, the actions taken to date have done nothing to preserve the shake and shingle industry.

Could the Secretary of State for External Affairs give us the name of any person in his Government who sent, and the date on which any kind of a response was sent to Secretary of Commerce Baldrige regarding today's deadline in relation to the forthcoming countervailing action against Canadian softwood? Has the Minister done anything on that or is that just another case by which he is going to be shaken?

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): And shingled.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that question, among others, was raised by me in my meetings on Friday with Secretary Shultz in Halifax. The question with regard to the proposed countervail has been raised on innumerable occasions by Members of this Government. I would suggest to the Hon. Member that he should not so quickly give up hope of action proving effective on the shakes and shingle question, nor should he cast such an atmosphere of despair on the question of softwood.

An Hon. Member: Keep scratching.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): These are difficult questions. They demonstrate, among other things, how essential it is that we have a better trading arrangement with the United States to protect Canadians against this kind of action.

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—POSITION
ADVANCED BY NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External