

Oral Questions

[Translation]

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

MATANE PAPER MILL PROJECT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, I would like to ascertain whether another Minister on the other side is looking after the interests of Quebecers. Hon. Members would know that answers are not forthcoming with respect to equalization payments and potatoes.

Concerning the Matane paper mill project, about which the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion made a commitment to his Quebec counterpart, I should like to know if a Minister might have an explanation for the fact that, in a prepared statement he read yesterday, the Parliamentary Secretary said: "Before making any decision about such projects, we would have to take into consideration the possible impact our assistance might have on the current trade negotiations with the Americans." Is there any connection between the delay in granting financial assistance to the Matane paper mill and the free trade negotiations with the Americans, as implied in the statement?

[English]

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member can see, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion is absent from the House today on Government business. I will take the Hon. Member's question as notice and ensure that it is brought to the Minister's attention immediately upon his return for his disposition.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT RESPECT ITS PROMISES AND WORD

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

In the discussions and agreements between the Governments of Quebec and Canada there was no mention of taking into consideration the fact that the pulp and paper industry might object to the Matane paper mill grant.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister make sure that Quebecers and Conservative Members will live up to their promise to Matane residents and honour their commitment to the Quebec Minister?

[English]

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I shall certainly make the representations of the hon. gentleman known to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion immediately upon his return.

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—AUTO PACT

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, this Friday morning conciliation from the Secretary of State for External Affairs is much appreciated.

Mr. Crosbie: Question.

Mr. Langdon: Given that Simon Reisman has refused to rule out bargaining with respect to the Auto Pact, and given the damage the Government's secret study on it has suggested supposedly could take place—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Crosbie: Order.

Mr. Langdon: —will the Minister specifically authorize today the release of that study which has already reached the public, according to the *Toronto Star*, through leaks to the newspaper?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: What paper was that?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, surely the Hon. Member would not expect me to trust the word of the *Toronto Star*. I believe in reciprocity. I will take a look at the possibility of acceding to the Hon. Member's request, and respond.

Mr. Crosbie: He has stars in his eyes.

Mr. Nystrom: Generous Joe.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): May I ask the Minister if he now recognizes that the lack of trust which a good many Canadians, not just the *Toronto Star*, have exhibited with respect—

Mr. Crosbie: Order.

Mr. Langdon: —to the Government's handling of the free trade issue has come directly out of the secretive closed basis upon which it has proceeded to take these policies forward? Why has the Minister not—

Mr. Crosbie: Order.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Langdon: —brought the Canadian people more into this process?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I certainly would not agree with the suggestion that the people of Canada suffer from the same disease as the editors of the *Toronto Star*.