

Oral Questions

Will he call off this deliberate campaign he has going against fishermen and plant workers, his cowardly intimidation and harassment of people whose only sin is that they would like to work?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, it takes the tiny politician in the hon. member to try to score political points out of the misery of people. That is what he is doing.

Madam Speaker, a stroke of the pen. We are talking in Newfoundland, Labrador and all the rest of Atlantic Canada about a sustainable fishery. We have worked with these fishermen, these people; we keep working with them. They have asked us to enforce the rules. Now that the rules do not seem to fit a little tiny group, they want me to put all the rules aside.

I will not do that, and the member knows it. What he is asking me to do, what he does not want the people to acknowledge, what he does not want the people to know, is that we took the allowance.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Order.

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PORK PRODUCERS

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Madam Speaker, in March 1987, Canadian pork producers were assured by the Prime Minister in this House of Commons that a free trade agreement with the United States would help Canadian farmers by increasing predictability and security of access of exports by the farm sector to United States markets.

Now, four years later, the United States is refusing to accept the January decision of the free trade dispute settling mechanism on Canadian pork exports.

Can the Minister for International Trade inform this House of the nature of the discussions between the Prime Minister and President Bush today on this most important matter?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Madam Speaker, the series of actions that we have taken together with Canadian pork producers in connection with pork has been an unparalleled example of success. We have been successful in the GATT panel with reference to this question. We have been successful

with respect to a panel under the U.S.—Canada Free Trade Agreement.

Now, in desperation, the U.S. National Pork Producers Council has filed a petition asking United States trade representatives to establish an extraordinary challenge committee to review the panel's action. That is an act of desperation on its part. It is an extraordinary procedure the council is asking to be used which has not been used so far. It can only properly be used with respect to some misbehaviour of panel members. It is extremely unlikely, if the USTR gives permission for it to go forward, that it would be successful.

To date our record is unparalleled in the success we have had under the U.S.—Canada Free Trade Agreement in this important area.

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Madam Speaker, Canadian pork exported to the United States makes up about 3 per cent to 4 per cent of its total market, yet this harassment continues.

In 1987, Clayton Yeutter, told his colleagues that in the event of a dispute between the free trade agreement and U.S. trade remedy laws, the U.S. law shall prevail.

Can the minister assure this House that yet another panel review, article 1904 of the free trade agreement, will not be superseded by U.S. trade remedy laws?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Madam Speaker, this is a matter that started, actually back before—

Mr. Peterson: Before Confederation.

Mr. Crosbie: No, not before Confederation; before Canada received enlightenment and we took over in 1984. This is a matter that started then.

Thank heaven we have the U.S. Canada—Free Trade Agreement, so we have the process we are now going through.

I can only say that when this whole process is through, \$70 million will be coming back to Canadian pork producers and the value of the U.S.—Canada FTA will be proven beyond doubt for every member of this House.

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ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.