

Oral Questions

[English]

CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

DENIAL OF ACCESS TO LABOUR LEADERS OCCUPYING
CORPORATION OFFICES

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and concerns the attitude and actions of the Chief Executive Officer of the Cape Breton Development Corporation. Could the Minister explain to the House the rationale and reasoning behind the Chief Executive Officer prohibiting the Leader of the Official Opposition in the Province of Nova Scotia from entering a federal building in order to speak with seven labour leaders to try to resolve the matter which the Minister knows can become a very serious matter at the Cape Breton Development Corporation? Why is the Minister allowing the Chief Executive Officer to prohibit duly elected personnel from speaking with these labour leaders?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is aware that union elections are taking place today. I do not think it would be proper for politicians to intervene in the election process or to be seen as interfering. I indicated to the House yesterday that I thought it was inappropriate and that it would seem to me to be right and proper to allow the elections to be finished. There is a task force mechanism in place that can be used, I hope, to resolve the problem, and if it is necessary to supplement or complement that process, we will take that under consideration.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, can I take it from the Minister that, pending the outcome of those elections, he would then give a directive to the president of the corporation, as well as send down a special envoy to meet with the labour leaders, in order to address in a very substantive way the rightful concerns over high unemployment and the future of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, or is the Minister saying that we will have to wait until there is a situation like the one in Edmonton with people on the streets?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I did not indicate that I would give the Chief Executive Officer a directive. I did indicate, as the Hon. Member knows, that there is a task force in place that is equipped to resolve these kinds of issues, and I did indicate that if it was necessary to supplement that task force I would consider doing so. I think the important thing is to get the elections over with so that there is a cooling off period. Then we can take a look at it.

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Which form of liberalized trade is he advocating, the one with safeguards like the Auto Pact, or the one with no safeguards like free trade?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, what we advocate is Progressive Conservative liberalized trade.

PRIME MINISTER'S VIEW

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, we have always known that there is no difference. Perhaps the Prime Minister would like to tell us which view his is closest to when he talks about liberalized trade. Is it closest to free trade or is it closest to sectoral trade? If he is not prepared to say yes or no, perhaps he could say which view is closest to his own.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could put it this way. It is far removed from the NDP, United Auto Worker, Bob White position, and it is very, very close to the position of trying to create new jobs and wealth for all regions from Newfoundland to northeastern British Columbia. We want everyone involved in a new dimension of prosperity and we want to give all Canadians a mechanism for growth and prosperity.

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REFUGEES

DISTRIBUTION OF LETTER TO POSSIBLE REFUGEE STATUS
CLAIMANTS

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. On June 9 the Minister told the House that letters inviting refugee claims had not been sent to alleged murderers and drug traffickers. Today we learned that the Director of Refugee Affairs told the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* that in fact thousands of letters to such individuals were sent. Why did the Minister deny in the House last Monday that such a letter existed? Why were such letters of invitation sent to those individuals? Who is in control of her Immigration Department?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member has information about individuals in Canada who are murderers, he has an obligation to bring that information forward.

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF DOCUMENT

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, where has the Minister been for the last 10 days? I deposited that very