

Oral Questions

[English]

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL AGREEMENT

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is it not true that the only free trade agreement ever entered into between the U.S. and another sovereign country is the one with the State of Israel? In that agreement the United States refused to give up the right to impose countervail. Why should Canadians expect the U.S. Government to treat Canada any differently?

● (1425)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there has been an agreement established between the United States and Israel. We are seeking the conclusion of a different kind of agreement between Canada and the United States. If what is brought forward at the end of the negotiations is not in the best interests of Canada then, of course, this Government will not accept it. We believe we have a duty, given the threat to Canadian jobs, and Canadian security, to enter into negotiations that can provide a more secure future for Canadians, and that is what we are doing.

COUNTERVAIL DUTIES

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister not agree that any trading agreement reached between Canada and the United States that does not exclude countervail will be unacceptable to the Canadian Parliament and to the Canadian people?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have said on several occasions that the question of countervail is at the heart of the negotiations. It is one of the reasons we are interested in dealing with the United States. That has been clear from the beginning of these discussions.

CANADIAN LUMBER EXPORTS

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Tens of thousands of jobs are at stake in British Columbia if the lumber industry is not allowed to continue at its present level, and yet in the U.S. its trade representative said that this matter will be solved within weeks. Could the Minister give this House his assurance that there will be no lumber talks in advance of the free trade negotiations and Canada will not, in fact, sell out British Columbia and the lumber industry in Canada?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, not very long ago in this House we were being asked for assurances that the discussions about lumber would not be part of the negotiations with the United States. Now we are being asked that discussions about lumber not be

part of anything at all. The NDP has got to come out of cloud-cuckoo-land and deal with the reality of the modern world.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. With tens of thousands of jobs at stake, this is no laughing matter. I wish the Minister would get to the point and give this House the assurance that these free trade negotiations with the United States will not be separate from the discussion on the lumber issue? Will he give this House the assurance that the Government does not intend to sell out Canadian lumber in advance of the free trade talks in order to facilitate them?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this Government does not intend to sell out Canadian lumber at any time.

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TERRORISM

SPEAKERS AT CONFERENCE—RCMP INVESTIGATIONS

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Over the weekend I participated in a conference on terrorism at the military college. That is not the source of this bandage.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Perhaps the House could show some sympathy to the Member and let him put his question.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, some statements were made by speakers at that conference with which the Solicitor General has publicly disagreed, about the level of threat in Canada. This morning the Solicitor General announced publicly that he is sending in the Mounties or CSIS to interrogate the speakers with whom he disagrees. I want to ask him if he does not recognize this as a form of intimidation that can discourage free discussion of security matters.

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to welcome the hon. gentleman back safely. As the Hon. Member indicated with his preliminary remarks when he said he spoke at the conference, the quality of participation varied over the course of the weekend. Unfortunately, over the course of that time there were comments made which received a good deal of attention. I think the hon. gentleman would feel that I was negligent if I did not pursue such claims as Expo 86 being targeted by terrorists, large numbers of the Baader Meinhof gang being in Canada, or there being massive amounts of direct action in Canada. Obviously, if the Government did not attempt to confirm or deny such claims to ensure that the sources from