

Adjournment Debate

direction would increase hourly capacity from 50 movements to approximately 70.

The government believes that the runways would yield positive net benefits for the Canadian economy. The proposed development is of course subject to a full environmental review.

In early May 1991 a detailed environment impact statement describing the environmental and social consequences of the proposal was filed with the federal environmental review office panel. Recommendations by the panel are expected, and indeed eagerly waited, in the not too distant future. Rest assured that the report will be given every priority by the Minister of Transport.

Madam Speaker, before I sit down, may I wish you and your colleagues of the Chair who have served this House so well a very pleasant and happy summer. We hope it will be a long summer.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie.

TRADE

Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to elaborate on a question I posed to the Prime Minister on June 4 of this year.

It was with regard to pending trade actions by American steel producers against a whole host of countries. I believe it was 36 countries and Canada was included. This was just subsequent to a visit by our Prime Minister to the United States. He came back and said he was confident that frivolous and vexatious American trade actions would cease. We indeed hope that that is true.

Although we were wary, we felt that the Americans would lodge these actions on June 15. I am now told that they are expected on June 30.

We do not believe that the visit of the Prime Minister has changed anything in the United States with regard to protectionist sentiments toward Canadian steel producers. The Prime Minister in his response said that we were caught in a side-swipe from Korea. I suggest that we were not only side-swiped, but front-ended and back-ended and everything else.

We have been exempt from voluntary restraint agreements as other countries have received therefore supposedly striking up a special relationship with the United States.

That has not happened. Our market share of the United States has been consistent at 3 per cent to 3.5 per cent since 1988, whereas the American share of our market has risen from just over 7 per cent to about 16 per cent at this particular time.

There is no agreement on the definition of subsidies. The Americans say we are subsidized. We know that they are subsidized to the tune of several billions of dollars.

Certainly we have had some warning that this would happen when the visit of the Canadian steel producers to the United States was cancelled 24 hours prior to arriving there. The suggestion was that it was the Pennsylvania primaries that postponed the visit. I suggest they knew about this months in advance. Also we have been unable to schedule another session. We expect on June 30 that the shoe will drop.

Canadian steel producers and the United Steel Workers of America went to Washington. They told me: "Play this low key. We feel the Americans are very sensitive to the problems of Canadian steel. We will not involve you in any trade actions".

Those sensitivities have proven to be incorrect. I think they are going to be as sensitive as a sledge-hammer come June 30. I would hope the government would respond by indicating just exactly what it is doing to preclude us from being caught up in this unnecessary, unjust trade action against Canadian steel producers.

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to answer today the question the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie asked the Prime Minister of Canada on June 4 regarding the looming crisis in Canada-U.S. steel trade.

As the hon. member knows, it is anticipated that the U.S. steel industry will include Canada in its expected filing of unfair trade petitions against steel imports from a number of countries.