

national park reserve, including MPs from all three Parties, from British Columbia as well as the rest of Canada, will the Prime Minister take on the political role of finding a political solution to this national issue?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am gratified by the observations of my hon. friend that indeed the offer put forward by the federal Government is realistic and is supported by him and, I presume, by members of his Party, as it is no doubt by members of the Official Opposition.

It is indeed a very realistic and powerful commitment to the environment that the federal Government, on behalf of all parliamentarians, has sought. It is our view that this offer is one that ought to be accepted by the Government of British Columbia.

I have strongly urged, in private, the Premier of British Columbia and his colleagues to ensure that this matter is resolved on behalf of all British Columbians and all Canadians.

As described yesterday by the Minister of the Environment, we put on the table an offer of unprecedented generosity to ensure that British Columbians and Canadians benefit from this magnificent habitat forever.

That is the way it was done, and we believe that the Government of British Columbia will indeed endorse that concept.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER COMMUNICATE WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIER

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, as I am sure the Prime Minister is aware, more Canadians have written to the Prime Minister and to his cabinet colleagues on this issue than on any other environmental issue in the history of Canada.

The Minister of the Environment has done his best to bring this about, as has the Deputy Prime Minister. This Parliament has unanimously expressed itself as wanting that area set aside as a national park reserve.

Knowing that one week from today the B.C. Cabinet is going to make its final decision, I would ask the Prime Minister to contact Premier Vander Zalm and express to him one more time the view that from co-operation comes co-operation in this nation, and on this issue he should understand that very well.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): I have met with Premier Vander Zalm in the past on this issue, and on other matters affecting British Columbia. Most recently, we dealt with each other on the Meech Lake Accord. He played a very positive role in the elaboration of that instrument, an instrument that is very beneficial for Canada.

This environmental question in British Columbia is one that has national implications. I have spoken with the Premier on it,

and I shall do so again. I shall use every lever to persuade the Premier of British Columbia that this is an issue that should be resolved, not only in the interests of British Columbians but of all Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—AUTO PACT INQUIRY

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister concerning the existing perilous state of the negotiations on the free trade deal with the United States.

Just a few days ago a group of key Congressmen, representing members of the major trade commissions of the U.S. Congress, said that they would not agree to any free trade arrangement that did not include major revisions to the Auto Pact.

Yet today we have in front of us a letter sent to the Prime Minister by the Premier of Ontario saying that he could not agree to any free trade deal that in any way tampers with the existing arrangements on duties or safeguards under the Auto Pact.

My question for the Prime Minister is: What is the Government's position on this issue? Is it the Government's position that there will no change or modification to the existing formula of duties and safeguards under the Auto Pact, and will he give us the assurance that the Auto Pact will in no way be affected by the ongoing negotiations?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, this Government's position on the Auto Pact has been stated many times in the House. We shall repeat it once again for the Hon. Member's benefit.

This Government has not requested that the Auto Pact be on the table for negotiation. To date, neither has the American side requested that it be part of the negotiations.

If they do put the Auto Pact on the table, we naturally will take a look at what their proposals are. But, the proposals, insofar as Canada is concerned, should increase employment for Canada and assure the strengthening of the auto industry, an industry which is so important to this country.

ONTARIO PREMIER'S LETTER

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I will address my supplementary to the Prime Minister.

He has been quoted several times in the past, in Venice and elsewhere, as saying that the U.S. administration must