

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I shall, if I may, read part of a letter I was about to send to the Hon. Member.

“Further to your letter of May 30, negotiations are now under way between the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and TVA, with a view to bringing these TV broadcasts to Francophone communities outside Quebec. I will let you know the results as soon as the negotiations are completed.”

I share the Hon. Member's concern, and I hope all Canadians will be able to view these broadcasts.

REQUEST FOR FRANCOPHONE REPRESENTATION IN
NEGOTIATION OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister the following: In future, would it be possible to ensure that when preparing for a national or international event, both Francophone and Anglophone representation is provided during negotiations on contracts and conditions between the parties concerned?

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, that is an excellent idea.

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[English]

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

MODERNIZATION OF SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION

Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. As the Minister knows, the modernization of the Sydney Steel Corporation is an important part of efforts to rebuild the Cape Breton economy. Can the Minister provide a status report and a timetable for implementing the modernization plan?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Acting Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member's question gives me an opportunity to correct a number of erroneous and misleading reports that have been circulated by Members opposite. There is a \$157 million agreement in place to be shared 70 per cent by the federal Government and 30 per cent by the provincial Government. The business plan has been received. The Treasury Board submission is in the final stages of being concluded. It will be presented to Treasury Board before the end of this month, and I expect approval. Furthermore, invitations for the engineering proposals have been released. Everything is on track as we expect it should be.

Privilege—Mr. Waddell

TRADE

SHAKES AND SHINGLES EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade. This morning on *Canada A.M.* the Minister said that one of the reasons he wanted to pursue free trade was to avoid the kind of thing that has happened in shakes and shingles. Does he not know that in the shakes and shingles business there is free trade?

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the Hon. Member that while there may be free trade between articles, there are also non-tariff barriers. There is government procurement. There is “Buy America”. There is contingency protection. These are extremely important. They are one of the main objectives we are trying to achieve in the trade talks, that is, a secure market in the United States and the ability subsequently to enhance that market and to have it enshrined in an agreement.

ACCESS TO U.S. MARKET

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, how does establishing in other sectors the same set of circumstances that we now have in shakes and shingles make it any easier for us to achieve access to the U.S. market?

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the type of agreement that this Government contemplates and hopes to achieve with the American Government is to have our own regime for contingency protection. In this way we can have better laws more beneficial to the country dealing with those types of actions for safeguard, countervail, and anti-dumping than presently exist. They will give us the protection we need in the future which we presently do not have.

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PRIVILEGE

RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES COMMISSION—RELEASE OF
REPORT BEFORE TABLING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a question of privilege of which I gave you notice. Very briefly, I would like to outline the facts.

On Friday, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Côté) chose to table in the House the report of the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, a huge report, after Question Period at noon. As the NDP energy critic, I would be expected to respond to the report in order to carry out my duties. I must comment on the report and I must comment quickly as this is the age of instant media. Those who have previous knowledge of something have a real advantage.