

Oral Questions

Section 3 of this particular agreement it says, and I paraphrase, that plant cannot export without the specific consent in writing of the parent company.

In light of that, and in light of the request I also made last week, that the Minister make public several documents that talk about limitations on branch plants in Canada, I wonder if he can explain to the House why he is stonewalling in releasing those documents? Why will he not release those documents to me? What is the Government trying to hide? It released some of those documents to a professor, but it will not release them to the House of Commons. Why?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville for a question on an important subject. I want to tell him that I do not intend to stonewall him; that is not my style. I intend to release those 20 year old documents to the Hon. Member. They were not released to a professor. A professor was given the opportunity to study them where they were but not to take them away, but I will release them to the Hon. Member and to anyone else who wants them.

I want to say that those studies showed that in the sixties there were practices by some American subsidiaries of not allowing exports from their branch plants in Canada.

While it is hard to tie down cause and effect, I suggest to the Hon. Member that those studies undertaken by the Government of that day may well have contributed very substantially to the development of FIRA. The Hon. Member will be aware that one of the criteria that FIRA looks at in allowing American investment in this country is the willingness of the new undertaking to participate fully in export markets. It also led to the establishment of such things as PEMD and the development of the Export Development Corporation and other facilities that have made Canada in the intervening years one of the great exporting countries of the world.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ROLE OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN PROHIBITING EXPORTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, the Minister asked for examples. I have an example here of a licence agreement in 1982. I realize we are not the MacDonald Commission and we cannot pay our researchers \$800 a day, but we do have examples that we are going to give to the Minister right after Question Period.

In this particular case there is a clause on the restriction of trade that says shipments may be prohibited by the United States Government. It says it is understood that the head office power to give consent to such sales is limited by the United States Government and in some cases the head office will be forbidden to give such consent. This is a 1982 agreement between a head office in the United States and a Canadian firm.

Madam Speaker, I thought this was a sovereign nation, a sovereign country. Would the Minister not agree that this is an attack on sovereignty and on our nationhood? Can he explain, if in 1980 the Government across the way campaigned to strengthen FIRA to prevent this type of situation, and it was good enough in 1980, why is it not good enough in 1983?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, I will not reach conclusions on something that is quoted possibly out of context by the Hon. Member. I think he is contributing in a very solid and constructive way to the parliamentary process by bringing this information to my attention. I want to assure him that any examples he gives us, during or after the Question Period, I will investigate most thoroughly.

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ECONOMIC SUMMIT

FORTHCOMING MEETING IN WILLIAMSBURG, U.S.A.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister, if he has completed obtaining explanations from his Minister of Justice.

Is there to be a follow up of the Montebello Summit and, if so, when, where, and will the same Heads of State be participating as participated at Montebello?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Madam Speaker. There was a follow up, as the Hon. Member knows, in Versailles last June, and there will be a second follow up which will take place in Williamsburg in the last days of May. I think it is May 28 and May 29, but I would have to check the exact dates. I believe it is the last weekend in May of this year.

Mr. Nielsen: Heads of State?

Mr. Trudeau: Heads of State and a few Heads of Government.

Mr. Nielsen: The Prime Minister might make it to the end of May.

FORMULATION OF AGENDA

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the views of Secretary Shultz, as I understand them, will be carried out and that the personal viewpoints of the Heads of State who will be attending will be requested for the purposes of framing an agenda? If that is the case, no doubt Canada is in the process of preparing such an agenda. Is it the intention of the Prime Minister to request the views of the Opposition here with respect to matters to be included on that agenda?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the dates of the Summit were of course set before the dates of the Tory Convention, but I understand that there was