

Oral Questions

With regard to questions that were asked, they were asked in different contexts and there was nothing said, if you care to examine the record—no, I said if you care to examine the record, not *The Toronto Star*.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Chrétien: *La Presse, Globe and Mail.*

Mr. Gauthier: How about *The Toronto Sun*?

Mr. Mulroney: If you care to examine the record you will find that what the Secretary of State for External Affairs and I said was completely consistent and in the national interests of Canada.

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BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE RELATIONS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The failure of the Bonn Summit to arrive at any specific timetable on multilateral trade negotiations, I think he would agree, raises the real potential of a U.S. trade war which would have a great deal of serious impact on Canada. The Prime Minister is quoted again this morning, in a newspaper of record, as saying that he would be assured by President Reagan that Canada would be given special exemptions, otherwise, I think his words were, "we can cut him up into little pieces". I am afraid his friends in the United States have already started the cutting process because a week ago the Secretary of the Treasury, James Baker, said in a briefing to Canada journalists that President Reagan would not ask for special exemptions for Canada.

Can the Prime Minister explain this major contradiction between his statement and that of the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury? Can he tell us what guarantees President Reagan gave him that we would get special exemptions?

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Run for Congress, Lloyd.

Mr. Axworthy: Can he tell us why he is so sure that Congress will listen to President Reagan and give us those special exemptions, or when can we start cutting him into little pieces?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): My hon. friend raises some important questions. I cannot give him a guarantee that Congress will respond to President Reagan on any given subject. He might want to ask him the next time he sees him. I cannot give that guarantee, nor can I explain each and every statement made by an American official. I can tell him that this Government recognizes the importance of our trading relationship with the U.S. Over three million Canadian jobs depend on maintaining the excellence of that relationship.

Why we worked so hard with everyone else to try to avoid a breakdown of a new GATT round is precisely because of the

spectre raised by my hon. friend, where there might not be a U.S. trade war but a breakdown in efforts toward liberalization of commerce and trade which are to the advantage of all the democratic countries.

We take this very seriously and we worked very hard to make that point because of Canada's national interests and our international obligations, and there is no inconsistency at all as far as Canada is concerned.

GERMAN AND JAPANESE ISSUES

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I have to say to the Prime Minister that there is a major problem if this Government is assuming that President Reagan is going to speak for it, yet his Secretary of the Treasury says he will not. I think it is very important that this be clarified, and I ask him if he intends to clarify what the American position will be.

Furthermore, I would like to raise with him the assurances given in this House by the Deputy Prime Minister last week that the Prime Minister would undertake specific representations on behalf of Canada, in his role as the great negotiator, with the Japanese Prime Minister concerning Japanese automobile import guarantees, and with the West Germans on the problem of overfishing in Canadian waters. Did the Prime Minister speak specifically to the leaders of those two countries, and have we new agreements, or guarantees, or assurances from them that they will act in the Canadian interest and, if that is the case, why are the West Germans still fishing in Canadian waters at this very time that we speak? When is the Prime Minister going to put his great negotiating talents to work for Canada?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there are two questions. Did I speak to the Chancellor of West Germany with regard to overfishing off the coast of Newfoundland? And the answer is yes, I did. I explained the Canadian position and advised him that the Minister of Fisheries would be there shortly hopefully to resolve this in an amicable way, as the Hon. Member would want.

With regard to the question of meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister, on a number of occasions I pointed out to him the growing problem in Canada, in Ontario in particular, and I laid out some thoughts for his consideration about further Japanese investment in Ontario specifically, and in Canada generally, in this regard, including joint ventures where we could create jobs and where there might be easier access for Japanese and Canadian products to the American market. I invited him to consider, in a very specific way, some major Japanese investments in Canada. To this end, I am going to Calgary next week to speak to 400 community leaders from Japan, to encourage them to maintain their investment plans in Canada.

I can assure the Hon. Member that I took a very strong position on behalf of the automobile and parts manufacturers with the Prime Minister of Japan, as I did on behalf of the