Oral Questions

IMPORTATION OF STEEL CASTINGS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister not agree that it is time to impose mandatory sanctions, especially given that situations such as the following have occurred. In January CN and CP received 77,000 pounds of steel castings from South Africa. That purchase not only indirectly supports apartheid, but is at the cost of steelworkers' jobs in this country. Are we going to sacrifice Canadian jobs in support of apartheid or are we going to impose mandatory sanctions so this sort of thing will not

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have sanctions with respect to steel. I want to express my appreciation and that of the Prime Minister to the President of the Brotherhood of Railway Transport Workers who has drawn to our attention the fact that the regulations now in place do not deal with the import of castings. That is a loophole in the law and we are going to change it.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry. I would ask Hon. Members to tighten up their questions. We are getting close to the end of Question Period.

TRADE

UNITED STATES PETITION AGAINST CANADIAN STEEL EXPORTS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. As the Minister was probably informed yesterday, a petition was filed in front of the International Trade Commission of the U.S. Department of Commerce against exports of Canadian steel. The petition is totally spurious and based upon alleged exports which Canadian companies like Stelco have not made for the last year or two. Does the Government intend to make representations to the U.S. Government to have that petition rejected outright, based as it is on totally phoney and spurious grounds?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, this is a routine trade action taken by the Americans and it will be dealt with in a routine manner.

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I would remind the Minister that is the answer she gave on the softwood lumber case. That did not turn out to be too routine.

We now have a petition on potash and a petition on steel. Does this not represent a clear pattern of trade harassment which totally goes against the commitments made by the U.S. Government as far back as the Shamrock Summit and as recently as three weeks ago at the Bush meeting? Can the Government not require the U.S. Government to live up to its commitments to end this kind of trade harassment? The U.S. has the power to reject these petitions outright and right now.

(1500)

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has finally woken up to the reality of trade harassment. I again remind him that that is the reason we are entering a bilateral trade negotiation with the U.S. He is unhappy with that answer, but we repeatedly say as long as the existing trade remedy laws remain in place Canadian industries will be subject to this kind of harassment.

REFUGEES

SALVADORAN AND GUATEMALAN REFUGEE STATUS CLAIMANTS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Immigration to whom I have given notice. As the Minister knows, the Government is quoted in yesterday and today's papers as seeking methods of dealing with Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugee claimants entering Canada from the United States. Will the Minister assure this House that Salvadorans and Guatemalans from the United States seeking refugee status in Canada will not be stopped or sent back to the United States?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, genuine refugees will not be sent back to face death or torture. However, temporary measures are being examined in order to treat abusers harshly.

DEPORTATION LIST INQUIRY

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, as the Minister knows, there is no way of telling who is a genuine refugee until he has been examined. Will the Minister say whether these people will be allowed to make their claim in Canada? I am particularly asking whether the Minister will assure this House that the B-1 list or the no deportation list will not be abolished, or that El Salvador and Guatemala will not be removed from the list as a means of preventing them from making their claims.

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, there are a number of temporary measures that are being examined. When appropriate, we will make those known.