

Oral Questions

There has been an oral indication. There will be a consideration by Cabinet of what exactly the Americans are looking for once we know, with absolute precision, what it is the Americans are looking for.

We will carry out our responsibility as the Cabinet of Canada, responsible to this House and responsible, ultimately, to the people of the country, to oversee the negotiations and to protect the Canadian interests.

If individual Canadians want to have some easy guideline as to what the Americans are asking for, the best advice I can give them is never pay attention to, or give credibility to, the representations of the Hon. Member.

Mr. Langdon: I thank the Minister. A compliment from the Minister is bound to come in the form of an insult.

MANDATE TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Let me ask the Minister this. If this Government made a determination that it was right to take the country into trade negotiations with an existing mandate, a mandate set out very clearly, why is the Government now prepared to look at changing that mandate, widening it, and giving the United States something further without getting anything in return?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I don't want to engage in insults. What I am—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): So that the record is clear, the reason I made the comment I did, Mr. Speaker, is that I have paid close attention to the outrageous and false things the Hon. Member has said about the trade negotiations, and no one who wants to have a reasonable understanding about what is going on should be misled by those unreasonable and false statements that he has been making.

Let me just be clear about what I thought everybody in the House knew about a negotiation: a negotiation is not a static thing. Naturally, there is going to be some movement in the negotiations. There are some matters on which we want movement from the United States that will be proposed before the end of the negotiations. There have been matters proposed since the negotiations began by both sides.

That is in the nature of a negotiation. That would be understood by a Party that was not determined from the outset to sabotage and subvert the trade negotiations, as the Socialist Party has, and is.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, if we understood the answers of the right hon. gentleman to the questions of both the Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry and the Member for Oshawa, the question being whether the Government would consider an American

request to negotiate investment beyond trade related issues, he responded in the affirmative.

Yesterday the same question was put to his colleague, the Minister for International Trade, and she responded in these terms:

"If the Americans want to go beyond trade-related investment areas, it is up to them to indicate what they want," she said.

The journalist then asked: "Does that mean you would be willing to consider it?", to which the reply was—and I read from a Canadian Press article:

"No!" Miss Carney replied loudly. "I am getting really annoyed. You are trying to exteapolate things that I don't say."

Would he over the week-end, once he has had a chance to reflect and perhaps calm down and return to his usual benign mood, talk to his colleague and the Prime Minister and give us, on Monday, what the position of the Government is?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have given to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition what the position of the Government is. He is quoting a journalist. I trust my colleague didn't use the word "exteapolate"; I have not known her to use a word like that before.

An Hon. Member: Not in public.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Not in public. I will check the rest of the record.

An Hon. Member: It must be a falsehood.

Mr. Axworthy: There is nothing dirty about that. Is it against the new pornography Bill?

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): So that the Leader of the Opposition can have some confidence, the position of the Government is as I stated it today and as it has been stated by the Minister for International Trade and by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Axworthy: It is two positions.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): We have a patchwork quilt now, and we will try to put that together over the weekend, Mr. Speaker. I say that his colleague not only used the word "exteapolate", she probably understands what it means.

MEETING OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL TRADE MINISTERS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): I want to put a further question to the Minister. His colleague met yesterday with her provincial counterparts, with the provincial Trade Ministers. Did she describe to them the nature of the American request to broaden these trade negotiations relating to investment? And if she did, what did she tell them; and if she described in some detail what the Americans had in mind, would he share those thoughts with the House of Commons, so that Members of Parliament as