

Oral Questions

aware of their concern for future growth within their ability to meet the Canadian market and world markets. We will bear that in mind in the MTN agreement negotiations and do everything we can to facilitate growth of this industry in Canada. We recognize it is a high technology employer and therefore very important to the high technology within our country.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question. I notice that Mr. Terry Matthews, executive vice-president of Mitel Corporation has pointed out that this year according to Statistics Canada, of a domestic market of some \$3 billion, imports are taking \$2.2 billion, whereas Canadian exports are only about \$600 million. This represents a very serious threat to the jobs of many thousands of Canadians. Surely the minister can give us some more satisfactory answer than that. The government has taken steps with other industries to effect some type of quota system or method of protecting Canadian producers and Canadian jobs. What steps does he intend to take to protect the Canadian market for Canadians?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, first of all we recognize the industry of which we are speaking is a highly technical industry and vastly changing. The technological advances made in the electronics industry in recent years make it very, very difficult to apply any degree of set permits or import permits to our country because of the continual change taking place within the electronics industry. For that reason we have been reluctant to consider that approach. As I said earlier, however, we will do everything we can to allow the industry within Canada to meet export capabilities and to serve the Canadian market to a greater degree.

PULP AND PAPER—EFFECT ON CANADIAN INDUSTRY OF LOANS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH PLANTS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that the pulp and paper industry is suffering from lack of markets, I wonder if the minister would advise the House why the Export Development Corporation, which falls within his responsibility, is making loans to European countries which are taking away the markets of Canadians and causing serious loss of jobs?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we are well aware of the difficulties in the world market of the pulp and paper industry. I should like to say that the Export Development Corporation has made a loan for development of a pulp and paper industry in Poland. In making that loan they do not believe the Polish industry would serve any of the markets our industry is now serving. We also believe that a loan made to them for procurement of pulp and paper machinery in this country would create jobs which are needed in our manufacturing sector.

[Mr. Horner.]

LINERBOARD MILL IN NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR ACTION TO AVOID LOSS OF JOBS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Dealing with the province of Newfoundland in particular where the pulp and paper industry and the linerboard industry are basic to the province and which are being seriously hurt, has the minister consulted with the provincial government of Newfoundland with respect to the difficulties of the Labrador linerboard mill where 2,100 jobs were lost. Would the minister follow that up?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the linerboard mill in Newfoundland I would not like to reflect on any dereliction of duty on behalf of the government of Newfoundland but I believe they did discuss this with my predecessor and members from Newfoundland. It was only after lengthy Cabinet discussions in Ottawa that they believed no additional help could be made to keep that linerboard mill open.

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ENERGY

NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE—USE OF CANADIAN PIPE IN CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister regarding what I call that great sellout by this government in terms of the northern pipeline and the evasive answers given by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and others. Given the fact that Dr. Stuart Smith, Leader of the Opposition in the province of Ontario, has indicated by way of a letter to the Prime Minister that he is very, very concerned about this matter and that there should be guarantees in the agreement, and given the fact that there are no guarantees, could the Prime Minister advise Dr. Stuart Smith, this House and the people of Canada, what his reply will be to Dr. Stuart Smith who has registered the same kind of concern that we have in face of the apathy of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I regret, I have not seen Dr. Stuart Smith's letter yet but I can assure him I believe the matter is a very important one and I shall pay every attention to his representations. I must say it is typical of the Conservative party to describe as a sellout a negotiation between Canada and the United States, very ably conducted by ministers on this side which has meant some 100,000 man-years of work for Canada and some \$4 billion to be spent in Canada. If that is a sellout we would like to see what the hon. member for Hamilton West would do.