

*Oral Questions***LUMBER INDUSTRY**

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Madam Speaker, annual exports of more than \$1 billion worth of lumber to Europe from British Columbia, the maritimes and Quebec are threatened by a European Community ban and green lumber imports from Canada.

Canadian trade officials expected to have the ban lifted, but failed in their recent appeal. Another opportunity to present Canada's case arises when the Europeans review the issue on December 16.

I would like to ask the minister of forests if he can tell this House what steps the government will be taking to assure a ruling in Canada's favour in December.

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Madam Speaker, I have travelled in Europe recently to discuss this issue and many others with my counterparts there, and with Commissioner McSharry of the European Commission.

We have been assured that this issue will be dealt with on a priority basis. Naturally, we are disappointed that the decision, which is a plant health issue in Europe, has been delayed for a month, but we have engaged in a joint study with the European Community to discover ways in which this nasty bug could be eradicated and normality restored.

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Madam Speaker, given the success of Canada on this point, I am not sure if we need to have the minister travelling in Europe any more to present Canada's case.

In any case, Madam Speaker, my question for the minister is this. Given the government's failure on softwood lumber, on plywood standards, shakes and shingles and now this issue, can the minister tell the government that it has to realize that it cannot play in the major league of trade if it continues to strike out every time it gets up to bat?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Madam Speaker, the hon. member, of course, is wrong when he says that we strike out every time we engage in a trade conflict.

Our international market share has increased. It has broadened. It is dynamic. It is in Asia. Our own province is shipping more product to Asia now than we do to the United States, so the hon. member is quite wrong.

I did travel in Europe and make no apologies for that. Of course I was not accompanied by a squadron of CF-18 fighters. We made our case in the strongest possible terms and we hope to have it respected.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Yesterday the federal government admitted that its 1988 election promise to clean up the St. Lawrence River in time for the next election was an empty promise. Now we are told, Madam Speaker, that 1995 is the target. What concrete actions, I would like to ask the Minister of the Environment, is the government taking to give Canadians reason to believe that the new target of 1995 will be met?

Hon. Pauline Browes (Minister of State (Environment)): Madam Speaker, the St. Lawrence action plan is a very ambitious plan to clean up the St. Lawrence as a result of working with the Great Lakes action plan and working with industries. What we are targeting are those industrial plants that are along the St. Lawrence. We have a priority action of cleaning up 90 per cent of what is coming there from those industries. We have given an update in order that people of Canada can be well aware of how our planning is making progress. Of course the pulp and paper regulations that will be coming down soon will be assisting in this respect. Two companies in particular are being looked at. There are investigations going on both by the province of Quebec and by the Government of Canada on Tioxide Canada Incorporated.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Madam Speaker, four years ago the Minister of the Environment promised that his government would review, consolidate and strengthen legislation in respect to water. We have not even seen the bill to prevent water export, let alone a comprehensive bill to protect Canada's water.