

Oral Questions

the House right now that he is prepared to fight for this industry, to oppose American countervailing tariffs, and to get himself informed about this issue?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not have to be informed about it. This Government is promoting the interests of that industry not only in the United States but around the world. We are actively seeking out new markets and we are trying to deliver relief to the industry which so desperately requires it. That is why we have been working so hard on behalf of this and other industries.

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THE ADMINISTRATION**ALLEGED CONFLICT OF INTEREST—PARKER COMMISSION—REQUEST THAT OPPOSITION BE REPRESENTED AND PAID**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put another question to the Prime Minister regarding the Parker inquiry. If we consider the precedent of the Estey Commission, the Government of the country is certainly going to be well represented, and as the Prime Minister has said, handsomely represented, by counsel at the Parker inquiry. Will the Prime Minister allow the Opposition to be equally represented at that inquiry and to be paid by the Government as the Government's own representatives will be?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is asking me to intrude upon the jurisdiction of the Chairman of the inquiry. Representations can be made to the Commissioner under the Inquiries Act and he can make whatever determination he thinks is fair.

REQUEST THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE BE AMENDED

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister knows that he can control the parameters of the inquiry by amending the terms of reference. Since it is quite obvious, because of the Estey precedent, that the Government will be represented at public expense by counsel, will the Official Opposition and the New Democratic Party be equally well represented and paid at public expense?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we are not controlling any parameters. The inquiry has been asked to deal with the matters raised by my right hon. friend.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): You set the terms.

Mr. Mulroney: Of course we set the terms as the Government must. When my right hon. friend was Minister of Justice, he was called upon from time to time to consult in that area on behalf of the Government. We have done exactly what my right hon. friend did when he was Minister of Justice in the

Government of Mr. Trudeau. Representations can be made to the Chairman of the Commission and he will exercise the same good judgment in that as he will, no doubt, in all other matters. He is entirely free, and given his remarkable competence and impartiality, I am sure he will make the right decision.

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TRADE**CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—AUTO PACT INQUIRY**

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Several weeks ago the Minister of Finance, speaking in Durham, indicated that the Auto Pact was definitely not on the table in the free trade talks with the United States. Would the Prime Minister therefore repudiate the statements made yesterday by Peter Murphy in the United States who said that Canadians have assured him that all items, including the Auto Pact, will be on the table?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the remarks of the American representative, Peter Murphy, were repudiated by the American Ambassador, Thomas Niles.

AGRICULTURE MARKETING BOARDS

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, of course it is Mr. Murphy who is in charge of the negotiations. Will the Prime Minister also choose between the Minister of Agriculture and Mr. Murphy and make it clear that marketing boards are also excluded from these talks?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would always be reluctant to choose against someone by the name of Murphy, but clearly I would choose our Agriculture Minister.

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[*Translation*]

CANADA POST CORPORATION**POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF SERVICES—MINISTER'S POSITION**

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Post.

The Minister is considering various alternatives to reduce mail service so as to comply with the February 26 Budget constraints which fly in the face of the five-year plan advocated in the Marchment report.

Does the Minister agree with the Marchment committee recommendation that consultations be held with urban