

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member can be assured that the Prime Minister will raise all significant and important issues of interest to Canada, including the fishery. The Hon. Member should be the last to be criticizing anything that our Prime Minister is doing on that score, in the wake of reaching an agreement, which he and his colleagues failed to reach over so many years, on the Atlantic Accord.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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TRADE

UNITED STATES EMBARGO ON NICARAGUA—EFFECT ON CANADIAN EXPORTS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. The Minister will know that earlier this week when the Prime Minister was informed of the American embargo on Nicaragua, he said that Canada would not participate in that embargo. That was certainly the right position to take. The Minister is now aware that as a result of United States subsidiaries in Canada being influenced by that decision, Canadian companies and Canadians will be influenced. Is the Minister simply going to stand by and allow Ronald Reagan to dictate to Canadians which countries we can trade with, and the commodities we can trade with those countries? Is he simply going to stand by and allow Ronald Reagan to dictate our export policy?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, this type of questioning came up yesterday. We have now learned that the regulations that the Hon. Member and one of his colleagues referred to yesterday are not in place. It is simply coming from a story out of Washington that there might be such a regulation. As I indicated yesterday, surely getting into this hypothetical thing is totally unnecessary at the present time.

FORTHCOMING UNITED STATES REGULATIONS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, there is nothing hypothetical about this. The officials in the Treasury Department have indicated that the regulations will be completed by Tuesday. They will be in force by Tuesday and they will be affecting Canadian firms. The Minister says he plans to do absolutely nothing about it, that the firms operating in Canada will be prohibited from carrying on trade with that country and that his Government will stand passively by. Is that the case?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, again in response to the Hon. Member, he is missing the entire point. The regulations that he is referring to have simply been referred to by an official in Washington, if you can believe the news accounts. Our posi-

tion is that we will endeavour to find out what exactly is the nature of those regulations and see if they have any direct or indirect bearing on Canadian companies, and we will act accordingly.

CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, what the Minister is saying is that at the moment his officials are doing nothing. The Government is doing nothing to attempt to assist Nicaragua at this very difficult hour. Is the Minister prepared to say that, because of his Government's inaction, what it really means is that since the Americans have placed an embargo on Nicaragua the Canadian Government will be an accomplice of Ronald Reagan, forcing Nicaragua into the Soviet Bloc? Is that what he is saying?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the statements my hon. colleague just made in the House, I can reiterate my assurance that the Reagan order would not apply. Our Ministers, who are in Bonn at the present time, have held consultations, and we have the assurance that branches of American companies will not be affected by the embargo.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AID

ETHIOPIA—CLOSURE OF FAMINE RELIEF CAMP

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister. Reports we are receiving show that the tragic situation in Ethiopia is deteriorating and is even worse than most people believe possible. The Ethiopian Government has forcibly closed the major feeding camp in that country, forcing some 60,000 people into a march which many will not survive.

● (1130)

My question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Yesterday officials of the External Affairs Department informed Members of this House that they have no information whatever other than what they had received through the media, about what was taking place in Ethiopia, and therefore the Government had taken no action. On behalf of the Government will the Minister immediately contact the Ethiopian Government and express on behalf of the people of this country the very deep and great concern we have about the forced closure of that camp and the tragedy that is being inflicted on those people who are being forced into that march?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, or perhaps the day before, I announced in the House that the United Nations Co-ordinator