

*Oral Questions*

with the unions, management, and the Governments involved to bring about a solution. There has been no change in position. We are opening up new possibilities on different fronts trying to be helpful to those involved.

[Translation]

## CONSEQUENCES OF REQUEST FOR COMPENSATION

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Does the Prime Minister not realize today that by asking for compensation he is just accepting the fact that this industry has been utterly destroyed? Does he not realize this?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Not at all, Mr. Speaker. This step is entirely appropriate in the circumstances, and we are trying a number of alternatives on behalf of the people affected by the decision. It seems to me it is entirely normal to do so, and one option does not necessarily preclude others being tried as well. We are working in any number of ways to help the industry and get them interested in the industry.

[English]

## EFFECT ON INDUSTRY

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I have a letter which was sent by Ambassador Niles to various newspapers in the country. With respect to the shake and shingle decision he says:

This should not constitute a mortal blow to the Canadian industry, and should not endanger many of the roughly 4,000 jobs in the Canadian industry.

Does the Prime Minister agree with that assessment by the Ambassador from the United States which was directly contradicted by representatives of the industry only half an hour ago?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member is aware, there was a very fruitful meeting this morning between the industry and representatives of the Government, including the Prime Minister. At that meeting a number of options were discussed. Certainly the predicament of those people working in the industry was very much a concern of Government representatives at the meeting. These matters will be discussed further to develop—

**Mr. Berger:** That wasn't the question.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** —a fuller assessment of the direct impact on the people who work in that industry. At such time in the future as may be appropriate further action may be taken.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, the Government has gone a long way to avoid answering questions, but that is the most excessive yet.

## UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR'S LETTER

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Does he also agree with the statement of Mr. Niles in this letter that U.S. and Canadian government officials have discussed this case in Ottawa and Washington since the filing of the U.S. industry's petition?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, it has been indicated previously that there are differences of opinion as to what the impact of this decision will be on the workers in that industry.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Why don't you answer the question?

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** We are reviewing the matter.

**Mr. Langdon:** Answer the question.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** If the Hon. Member is not going to listen to the answer he is not going to learn anything from it.

**Mr. Heap:** You're not answering the question.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** We are assessing the impact and working with representatives of management and the workers in the industry, after which we will be able to make an appropriate assessment.

## TELEX SENT BY BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMIER

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister on the same issue. On May 7 the Premier of British Columbia wrote to the Prime Minister asking him to phone the President of the United States. Yesterday in the House the Prime Minister admitted that he did not follow that advice. I have in my hand a copy of a telex sent by the same Premier on May 20.

If you did not want to pay attention to the letter of May 7, why did you not at least pay attention to the telex sent by the Premier on May 20 in an attempt to avoid the impasse which we are presently facing?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, that question has been answered three or four times in the House of Commons.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Member will put his supplementary question through the Chair.

## REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER TELEPHONE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, the answer has not been given. Why did the Prime Minister not contact the President as requested in the letter of May 7, the telex of May 20, and other representations which he received? Did he