

*Oral Questions*

which has been more open than the Department of Employment and Immigration. I may say that myself and my officials have been before committee more than any other Department of Government. I know the Hon. Member has asked us to come back from now until the middle of June. We are delighted to co-operate. I will be back, my officials will be back, and we will be delighted to answer questions from the Hon. Member.

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**TRADE****IMPOSITION OF TARIFFS ON U.S. PRODUCTS**

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Finance have told us in effect that the tariffs imposed yesterday by the Canadian Government were to attract the attention of Washington to the important issue of protectionism. As my colleagues have pointed out, that is a bit like self-immolation in that it attracts a lot of attention. However, tell us how the imposition of approximately \$80 million of additional costs for Canadian consumers helps negotiations with the U.S?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, is it truly the position of the Liberal Party of Canada that when action of this kind is taken without warning, costing jobs in British Columbia and breaking the spirit of the Quebec Accord, that we should do nothing? They might be a do-nothing Party, but this Government stands up for Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT GAVE NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION TO UNITED STATES

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount):** But Mr. Speaker, why did we suggest that the Prime Minister pick up the phone and call the President of the United States? How many times was this suggested?

Mr. Speaker, another question. The Government says it was shocked that it had received no notice from the President of the United States. What kind of notice did this Government give the Americans before yesterday's action?

[English]

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** First, Mr. Speaker, we are told that there is going to be no reaction from the Liberal Party regarding this provocative action taken by the U.S. Then we find out from the Member himself that the position of the Liberal Party is to export such timber from British Columbia to the U.S., exporting jobs. We are against both. We are defending jobs and progress in British Columbia against the Liberal Party.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**AGRICULTURE****MEETING OF MINISTERS OF WHEAT-PRODUCING COUNTRIES**

**Mr. Bob Porter (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question to the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board. Yesterday in Vancouver the Ministers of five major wheat-producing countries met to discuss policies affecting the international grain sector. Was Canada's initiative at the Tokyo Summit, to place agriculture as a priority in the next GATT negotiations, discussed by those countries represented at the Vancouver meeting? In addition, are further meetings of these grain-producing countries being considered?

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday's meeting was very definitely helped by the emphasis placed on agricultural trade problems at the Tokyo Summit. I think it is significant that we were able to meet and have a discussion to understand better how various policies affect the other grain exporters. I think it was also helped by the initiative taken by the Prime Minister at the Tokyo Summit and we all agreed that agriculture should receive comprehensive consideration at the next GATT round.

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● (1450)

**NATIONAL SECURITY****TAPE RECORDING OF PUBLIC SERVANTS' SECURITY CLEARANCE INTERVIEWS**

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Several days ago I revealed in the House that federal public servants being interviewed for security clearances are being tape recorded secretly and without their consent by the civilian security service.

I want to ask the Minister to inform the House as to the full nature and extent of this reprehensible invasion of the privacy of public servants and indicate what action he, as Solicitor General, has taken to put a stop to it.

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I have had this incident fully investigated. This did, indeed, take place on a limited number of occasions. We have been able to identify some six occasions where this took place. Although this practice is legal, in my view it is not proper. Instructions have gone out from the Director of CSIS to ensure this never happens again in the future.