

Now, picking up the quote again:

"HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL is further pleased to direct that the Canadian Import Tribunal submit its report regarding carbon steel products as soon as possible but no later than within two months of the date of this reference and regarding specialty steel products, as soon as possible but no later than within four months of the date of this reference."



That's the meat of the order in Council. What it will do is give the steel industry quick and effective access to the information it needs to protect itself against dumping and subsidies. Within two weeks after the end of each month, the industry will be able to determine whether each steel shipment was fairly priced or dumped -- and then blow the whistle if necessary and apply for countervail relief.

Under the old system, it took three months before the industry could get its hand on any details at all, and the details it got were pretty sketchy. The speedup will reduce the necessity for countervail measures to be made retroactive, but the Canadian Import Tribunal can order retroactivity, on a case-by-case basis, at its discretion.

Don't go away. The Order in Council is only part of the story.

I can also report that the Minister of National Revenue has introduced mandatory customs inspection, at point of entry, of all imports of iron or steel pipe and tube for a three-month period.

The inspection is to monitor compliance with the marking requirements we introduced last fall on pipe and tube. It's a three-month test, designed to determine whether a more formal examination program is needed to stop foreign steel makers from trying to pass off their exports as being made in Canada.



Now let's go back to the unity theme. Why did the Government put the requests of the industry into action? I can think of a number of reasons. One is that we have the interests of steel very much at heart. As I told you last year, I'm not going to stand by and let Canadian steel get mousetrapped. As long as I'm your Trade Minister, I'll do everything possible to help you sell your steel.

Another reason is that the requests were well thought out, well documented, and entirely reasonable. The industry asked for specific remedies to specific problems -- not for sweeping protectionist measures of the Fortress Canada kind.



But there's another reason, too, and it would be hard to overstate its importance. The steel industry spoke with one voice -- the voice of the steel trade conference, labour and management working together. And that is hard to ignore.

I suggest there is great and proven value to working together. And I would like to suggest to the members of the steel workers union that what works in one place might work in others, as well.