

diplomatic note, to the United States administration for the attention of the U.S. Department of Commerce, clarifying the deep and serious concerns of the Government and of the people of Canada on this important matter?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his assurance of concern on what is unquestionably the most serious threat to Canadian exports that has occurred in very many years.

The value of our lumber exports to the United States amounts to over \$2 billion. The countervail threat is a particularly serious one. It is a little difficult to come to grips with it because of the fact that it is not an action by the administration of the United States, nor is it a Congressional action, but rather an action taken by a part of the lumber industry under existing statutes. As a consequence, this Government has made very strong representations of our concern to the United States. I have personally discussed the matter with Secretary of State Shultz, with Secretary of Commerce Baldrige who will be here again next Monday when the matter will again be mentioned to him, and also with Special Trade Commissioner Brock.

We are working very closely with the provincial Government, with the lumber industry and the unions, in co-ordinating a reaction to the threat. The Hon. Member can be assured that every step is being taken to protect Canadian interests, but I say that this is a very serious matter and it remains a matter of concern as the hearings go forward. We are absolutely confident that the Canadian position is just—

Madam Speaker: Order.

Mr. Regan: There is no commitment of subsidy, but we are watching it very closely.

Madam Speaker: I must say the answers are unusually long this morning, but the questions are not any shorter.

Mr. Kristiansen: I thank the Minister for the length of his reply, but he did not answer the specific question which I was asking. There has been a change in tone in the hesitation which the Canadian industry previously expressed; that is our understanding.

QUERY RESPECTING POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC NOTE

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Madam Speaker, is the Minister seriously considering, or is the Government now considering, the sending of a formal diplomatic note to Washington expressing our Canadian concern?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, if the length of my original answer seems long, it is because this is a serious and complicated

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matter, and I am sure Members of the House would want it given full attention.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Regan: In relation to the supplementary question, may I say to the Hon. Member that we believe the steps and representations which are being taken at this stage are the most effective and the most appropriate ones. I think he will find that both the companies and the unions involved believe that the actions we are taking are the best ones at this stage.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

TELEVISION OF MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

Mrs. Éva Côté (Rimouski-Témiscouata): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications who is responsible for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and it concerns an article published yesterday in the Montreal newspaper *La Presse*, Canada's largest French newspaper. The article, signed by a journalist who was unfortunately misinformed, appeared under the heading "A present from Radio-Canada to Liberal Members in the regions". It says that only Federal Liberal Members from Matane and the North Shore—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Would the Hon. Member please put her question instead of quoting at length from a newspaper article.

Mrs. Côté: Could the Minister inform the House what the CBC has decided to do, since the invitation is extended both to Federal Liberal Members and Provincial Parti Québécois Members from Matane, Rimouski and the North Shore, and all of us have accepted the invitation?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, the journalist to whom the Hon. Member was referring was as misinformed as the Leader of the New Democratic Party. If they both had the common sense to call the CBC and ask the appropriate questions, they would soon have been told the facts. The two stations concerned were formerly private stations which always invited Federal Members and Members of the National Assembly to broadcast their Christmas messages, and as I said yesterday in the House, the CBC had the choice of either extending the same privilege and services to all Members of the House or putting an end to this practice at the two stations that were formerly private stations. CBC senior management was not aware of this tradition which had existed in previous years, and when the President of the CBC was informed, he decided to put an end to this practice of the two CBC affiliates.