

*Oral Questions*

to the United States before Monday, opposing the countervail action against Canadian softwood, because as of Monday it will become a legal process, whereas right now there is still a political opening to allow for those kinds of representations?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has not refused to speak to the President of the United States. I think the Hon. Member knows full well that the dialogue between this Prime Minister and this President has been as open as any dialogue between any two leaders in the history of the two countries.

In response to the Hon. Member's question, the Secretary of State for External Affairs will be meeting with Mr. Shultz later on today, and a number of matters in relation to trade problems with the United States will be raised at that time.

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[Translation]

**AIR CANADA****SUSPENSION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANT—REGIME ESTABLISHED IN TRANSPORT MINISTRY**

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport.

Recently, a CBC reporter was taken to court because he made our airport security systems look ridiculous.

Yesterday, we heard that a stewardess was suspended because she said in public what thousands of Canadians are thinking, namely that the Government is incompetent and corrupt.

Could the Parliamentary Secretary inform the House what inspired the Department of Transport to indulge in this kind of intimidation?

[English]

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I think that question hardly befits the spokesman. However, I will take notice of it and bring it to the Minister's attention. He might reply when he returns.

[Translation]

**REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE**

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Does the Parliamentary Secretary realize that under our legislation, the Minister of Transport can give instructions to Air Canada? And will the Minister intervene within the next few days to exonerate the stewardess who was erroneously suspended, and will he do so as soon as possible, so as not to perpetuate this injustice?

[English]

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, once again the Hon. Member

draws some inferences which are quite unfair and unjust. I do not think that, as with his colleague in the New Democratic Party, that that distinguished Member, a former Cabinet Minister, would sit still for one minute if we were seen to be interfering with what is due process. There is a point in time when the representation of the Member can be considered, but not until such time as due process has been allowed to run its course.

**SUSPENSION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANT**

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Government appears to wish to wash its hands of the disgraceful injustice which occurred in Air Canada yesterday when a flight attendant was suspended for 30 days without pay. Does the Deputy Prime Minister not agree that since the complaint was sent to the Government, not to Air Canada, that the Government has a duty and a responsibility to have this injustice reversed, just as his Party demanded when they were in opposition, of a previous administration, in the firing of Neil Fraser for discussing metrication?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** The two cases bear no resemblance whatsoever, in my view. I am very surprised that the Hon. Member for Regina West would be standing in his place advocating that the Government should interfere with a process that is enshrined in a collective bargaining agreement between labour and management, a process set in place to deal with matters of this nature. Surely the hon. gentleman should be answering the question of why he should be suggesting that this collective bargaining provision in their own agreement should be breached in these circumstances.

**REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENT**

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, it should never have happened in the first place if Air Canada and the cabinet Minister concerned agreed that this was not worthy of this kind of treatment.

The executive correspondence unit of the Ministry of Transport sent three documents to Air Canada numbered one of three, two of three, and three of three. At the hearing yesterday only two of three and three of three were provided to the flight attendant and her union representatives. I would like to know if this House, the flight attendant, and the union can have page one of three? What is on it, and can we have it?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** I am unaware of the documents to which the hon. gentleman refers. They are recorded now on the "blues". I will look at the details and the Minister of Transport will undoubtedly, if the documents are under his jurisdiction, see to it that consideration is given to the request made by the hon. gentleman.