

Oral Questions

which the Government took hold of our national destiny. Canada will not accept a deal which is not good for all Canadians.

I applaud the successful efforts of the Prime Minister and his cabinet colleagues to secure ongoing negotiations between Canada and the United States without having to concede demands for preconditions.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

WORLD-WIDE TESTS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, the latest count on nuclear tests held so far shows that India has held one; China, 29; the U.K., 38; France, 129; the Soviet Union, 556; and the United States, 759, for a total of 1,512.

The silence of Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) on the most recent French and American nuclear tests is deafening. Have we lost interest in banning nuclear tests? If not, why are we silent? Is it because of the trade negotiations with the U.S., or would it be that since the 1984 election policy on nuclear testing is no longer made in Ottawa? How can Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs remain silent in view of the last three underground nuclear tests?

We pride ourselves on being an active member of the global community. Therefore the Government of Canada must speak up on nuclear testing and reflect the sentiments of concerned Canadians.

• (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—U.S. PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO U.S. SENATOR

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister. There has just been released in Washington a letter from Ronald Reagan to Senator Packwood dated April 24 which reads, in part:

During Prime Minister Mulroney's recent visit to this country, he and I agreed that we would attempt to initiate comprehensive bilateral trade negotiations between our two nations on a "clean launch" basis. We believe it is in the best interest of all of us to have everything on the table when the negotiations begin, and to start without preconditions on either side.

Is that the Government's position? Does the Deputy Prime Minister agree with President Reagan on this? Is Reagan speaking for both himself and the Prime Minister? I would like the Deputy Prime Minister to come clean with Canadians because, if that is the case, and President Reagan said it is, it

is quite a change from what they have been saying on some areas like the Auto Pact, agricultural marketing, and a whole number of other areas.?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the views of the Government and its position have been made known repeatedly week after week after week on this matter, by the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Minister for International Trade. I do not know where the Hon. Member is having his problem, but that question, Sir, has been answered repeatedly.

CANADIAN NEGOTIATOR'S STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): I take it, Mr. Speaker, that it is correct, that Ambassador Reisman was speaking for the Government when, on Thursday, April 23, he told CTV News:

Both sides would be willing to talk about all those things that the other side wished to talk about. In other words, everything on the table.

It is now a fact that everything is on the table. That must be the case from what the Deputy Prime Minister said and from what Ambassador Reisman said last week.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if the House Leader of the Opposition would like to put a question, I would be very pleased to try to deal with it.

REASONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, President Reagan in his letter to Senator Packwood said:

We continue to retain full access to multilaterally sanctioned United States trade remedies.

My question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. What is the point of having a general trade agreement with the United States if the result of it will be that the United States will still be able to impose countervailing duties on our exports in areas such as lumber, and fish, and even specialty steel? The United States says no preconditions for us, but the Americans have preconditions. How is this equal for Canadians?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, not for the first time the Liberal Party is misinterpreting the letter of the President. That letter stands on its own. It is understandable by any intelligent Canadian. The Hon. Member is raising a set of fears that are groundless.

COUNTERVAIL DUTIES

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. One of the strongest weapons the U. S. has been using to restrict entry of foreign goods onto its market has been countervail duties. The Americans have been using them on Israel, a country that has a free trade agreement with the United