

*Oral Questions***TRADE**

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—SOFTWOOD EXPORTS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Forestry. We have known for over a year that the mood of protectionism has been on the rise in the U.S. Congress on everything from fish and hogs to steel and, particularly, wood.

Would the Minister explain why his Government continues to wander around in a daze on this issue when he knows that it is time for this House and the country to start talking tough and put some real lobbying money where our mouth is on the issue of softwood?

Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of State (Forestry)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is wrong in his assumption that the Canadian industry or the Government has been inactive on this particular issue. We welcomed the delaying of the vote in the U.S. Senate Finance Committee. We think that the President of the United States has given us an indication that the trade talks will start off with a clean launch, and that is what we are hoping for.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, to date the Muldoon belly crawl has brought us quotas and tariffs. Of all members of Cabinet, the Minister should have done something real through the 1986-87 Estimates. All he has brought forward is one-half a person year in order to deal with the very real trade threat from the United States Congress. Is he prepared to explain why he did not do more in the 1986-87 Estimates??

Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of State (Forestry)): Mr. Speaker, I suggest the Hon. Member ask the industry and the provincial Governments whether this particular Minister has been co-operative with my colleague, the Minister responsible for Trade, on this particular issue.

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FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

FUTURE TAKEOVERS—REQUEST FOR RESTRICTIONS ON SELF-DEALING

Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York-Scarborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance. Will the Minister guarantee the House that in any future proposed takeover of a financial institution by a non financial institution, or in any future attempt by non financial institutions which already control financial institutions to increase

their ownership, she will impose the same or similar restrictions on self-dealing ownership and divestiture as those she imposed on Imasco yesterday?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I think we crossed an important watershed with the agreement with Imasco. Certainly in any future reviews we would be considering the same kind of controls and undertakings, giving some thought to individual circumstances. We are very pleased that our review process worked very well. I do not want financial institutions in our country to be traded around like penny stocks.

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INSURANCE

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. Self-insurance and group funding are becoming alternative programs for Canadian individuals or institutions which cannot get liability insurance or afford the unlimited increases. Can the Minister tell Canadians if she is encouraging such programs, and when she will table legislation to protect Canadians under this new system?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his continued interest in this important issue. Our officials are continuing to study the specific problems and are in the process of developing an approach which we think will be helpful. The industry itself has been helpful in coming up with solutions. I think the worst of our crisis is over. Legislation on property and casualty insurance will be forthcoming shortly.

[Translation]

CASUALTY SELF-INSURANCE

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, I may remind the Minister that although on January 20, she informed the House that the legislation was practically ready, we have yet to receive it. Is she going to consult with her colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, so that Canadian consumers will be protected under this new casualty self-insurance system?

[English]

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I consult regularly with my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I am very anxious to get this legislation into the House as rapidly as possible. Sometimes I am a little optimistic about timing.