

Oral Questions

RETAIL BOOK PRICES

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Is the Minister aware that people who buy English language books will have to pay more than the 10 per cent tariff and as much as 15 per cent when they want to buy their favourite Agatha Christie book because there will be administrative costs and tariff costs? You will need an army out there to examine all the books coming across the border and you are being discriminatory on the basis of language.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Hon. Members know that references to "you" are out of order.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Through you, Mr. Speaker, I say thank you to the Hon. Member. As I have indicated, the actions we have taken in the book industry have a cost, as the actions taken by the Americans on shakes and shingles had a cost in the United States for people who want to buy that product. My officials, my staff, and the staff of the Minister of Communications have had discussions with the publishing industry. I will be meeting with representatives of the industry later this month.

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[Translation]

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

FEDERAL REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA CONFERENCE

Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Mines). Mr. Minister, are you aware of an article in the newspaper *La Tribune*—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I must tell the Hon. Member that "you" references are not allowed. Questions and answers must go through the Chair, please.

Mr. St. Julien: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware of an article in the newspaper *La Tribune* to the effect that the provincial MNA for the Eastern Townships, Mr. Yvon Vallières, has complained about the lack of federal representation at the International Labour Organization conference now being held in Geneva and where asbestos is one of the major items on the agenda?

Can the Minister shed light on the role of the Canadian Government?

Hon. Bob Layton (Minister of State (Mines)): Mr. Speaker, anyone entertaining doubt about the Government's commitment in this matter has to be misinformed. Our Government has been supportive of asbestos workers for over 20 months, and our propositions at Geneva are expressed by all participants. About one hundred countries have been advised of our Government's position, and I have been told that the total ban option will be rejected at Geneva.

• (1150)

[English]

TRADE

PROPOSED U.S. TARIFF ON CANADIAN TRUCKS CROSSING INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport in the absence of the Prime Minister. The Minister is aware that on July 7 the United States Government will start charging a tariff on trucks, railcars, and so on, crossing into the United States, thereby making our exports more expensive. Was this matter raised with the American Vice-President this morning? If so, what action is he going to take to remove this barrier to Canadian trade?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the proposal to which the Hon. Member refers. I am not aware if the issue was raised with the Vice-President or not. But I can tell the Hon. Member that the Prime Minister and the Vice-President will be meeting later on this afternoon. It may very well come up at that time.

UNITED STATES POSITION

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would not agree that if this crossing fee is not withdrawn it will be yet another sign of bad faith bargaining by the American Government at a time when your side is trying to reach a free trade agreement? Would the Minister not agree with that?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, that observation is consistent with the New Democratic Party—

Mr. Deans: Accurate.

Mr. Mazankowski:—which does not want to engage in a better and more enhanced trading relationship with the United States and other countries.

Mr. Broadbent: That's not true, Don. That is simply not true.

Mr. Mazankowski: That's not true? Well, you can't have it both ways, Ed. You can't have it both ways.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mazankowski: You can't on the one hand mouth that you want enhanced trade and on the other hand you don't want negotiations.

Mr. Speaker: Order.