

Oral Questions

● (1452)

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of State (Small Business)): Mr. Speaker, I undertook to hold a conference with the newly-appointed president of the Federal Business Development Bank the Monday following the hon. member's question, and I did. He assured me that very careful study is being given to this matter, and I hope his decision will be a favourable one.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the minister acknowledged the fact that since he assumed his present responsibilities last fall, the rate of failure of small businesses had increased. I ask the minister why he has yet to present to parliament a single piece of legislation reflecting his present responsibilities.

Mr. Abbott: Mr. Speaker, I did present the CALURA amendments.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Abbott: I know the hon. member may not have them in his contemplation, but I can assure him we have done a good many other things as well. I would refer him to my speech during the budget debate. I am very hopeful that we will be introducing further initiatives in the future.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIAN ATTACK ON SOUTH KOREAN AIRCRAFT

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister inquired as to the circumstances surrounding the attack by Russia on the South Korean aircraft, indicating their sensitivity about their military bases and severe action by them against accidental intrusion?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, since it is not a matter that directly involves Canada, I have not made any specific inquiries. Of course, I have been advised in a general way about it. If the hon. member has a specific question with regard to the matter, I will be glad to look into it and see what additional information I can obtain.

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AGRICULTURE

ADOPTION OF TARIFF BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. On April 10, the minister, in reply to a question of mine concerning whether the government had made a decision on tariff recommendations, said "if he wants it briefly, it is practically as the Tariff Board reported." The Tariff Board report, at page 150, states, "one of the main recommendations was for the implementa-

[Mr. Beatty.]

tion of an automatic surtax." My question to the minister is: Has that particular part of the report been adopted in so far as the minister's statement to myself on April 10 is concerned?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that it has been dealt with in its full content.

Mr. Murta: Mr. Speaker, I was going to direct my next question to the Minister of Finance, but since he is not here I will direct it to the Minister of Agriculture because he has a passing interest in this matter. The Minister of Finance indicated that we, meaning Canada, have notified our trading partners that we intend to renegotiate certain GATT commitments in relation to Tariff Board proposals. Would the Minister of Agriculture inform the House what commitments the Minister of Finance and hence the government are talking about in terms of renegotiating with our trading partners at the GATT negotiations in Geneva?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I have had discussions with the Minister of Finance on this very topic. Since the hon. member has asked his previous question, to make it clearly understood, the Tariff Board report, with some modifications, is being dealt with practically in its entirety for discussion at the tariff talks that are taking place in Geneva. I do not think I am in any different position than I was then to say how these discussions are going or what is being done.

We had discussions this week with our ambassador there, and with our representative, Mr. Warren, to discuss how these negotiations were going. I am sure the hon. member is aware that agriculture is a very touchy thing for them to discuss there, because some countries have much more protective ideas than we do. We will be dealing directly with the United States on most of the Tariff Board suggestions and recommendations.

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IMMIGRATION

REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES—PEDRO CRUZ CASE

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I have given him notice of my intention to ask it. In view of the government's stated immigration policy which gives emphasis to the reunification of families, could the minister explain to the House the department's delay in making its decision in the Pedro Cruz case.

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for not only giving me notice but making representations in this case. I have looked into it personally. Mr. Cruz, unfortunately, is a member, under the old bill, of the prohibited class. As a result, he was ordered to be deported but chose to leave voluntarily. His wife subsequently made further application. Because of the hon. member's representations and others, I am