

And all of this has put you, Canada's steel industry, in something of a quandary.

So what are we going to do about it?

As you know, I and my officials meet often and regularly with the steel industry, both union and management, through the C.S.T.C. At last month's meeting, you asked for government action to address the unique problems facing Canadian steel. Specifically, you asked for protection from dumped and subsidized steel.



Some of you were there, and you know what you asked for.

You did not ask for import restrictions. Our steel industry has maintained its international competitiveness for many years without extraordinary measures of import protection. Rather, you suggested the use of the unfair trade remedy procedures of the Special Import Measures Act, so as to improve the industry's ability to contend with dumped and subsidized imports.

Specifically, you recommended three actions. You asked for the establishment of an import monitoring system for all steel mill products. You asked for more frequent application of retroactive anti-dumping and countervailing duties. And you asked that inspection of steel imports, particularly tubular steel, be beefed up at the border.

Well, I have news for you. You asked for it, you got it.

I'm happy to announce that the Governor General has signed an Order in

Council that will put your requests into action as of now. Let me read you some excerpts:



Her Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister for International Trade, . . . is pleased hereby to direct the Canadian Import Tribunal to undertake forthwith an inquiry in respect of the importation into Canada of steel products in order to:

"(a) examine the potential for diversion into Canada of foreign steel products given the capacity, market conditions and export patterns of major steel producing countries. The carbon steel products to be considered include: semi-finished steel (ingots, blooms, billets, slabs and sheet bars), plate, sheets and strip, wire rods, wire and wire products, railway-type products, bars, structural shapes and units, and pipes and tubes. The specialty steel products to be considered are as above with the exception of railway-type products and structural shapes and units;

"(b) in light of (a) provide advice as to whether steel products are being or are likely to be imported into Canada at such prices, in such quantities, and under such conditions to make it advisable to collect information with respect to the importation of such goods."

In other words, whether to place steel products on the Import Control List for the purpose of collecting information.