

CANADA'S ROLE IN COMMONWEALTH

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, yesterday Bishop Tutu expressed utter contempt for the American action, which was cited as an example by the Prime Minister's colleague. Will the Prime Minister not accept the judgment of oppressed South Africans that tough sanctions are necessary, even if it requires their sacrifice, impose mandatory sanctions and go to the Commonwealth Conference to exert the kind of leadership that black South Africa expects?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the Right Hon. Prime Minister has indicated, I will be making another statement with respect to South Africa later this week. However, I simply wish to anticipate that somewhat to say that it is the view of this Government that one of the cards which Canada holds, which may have some influence on ending a totally unacceptable regime in South Africa, is, in fact, our membership and our influence in the Commonwealth. That involves a patient exercise of that influence, which is the way we intend to proceed.

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INDUSTRY

SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION—MODERNIZATION PROJECT

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. On May 17 last I asked the Minister: When will the federal Government let the people of Sydney, Nova Scotia, know when the second phase of the modernization of Sydney Steel Corporation will begin? He stated, on that day, "very soon". I wish to ask the Minister the same question today, September 10. When will this announcement be made? Give us the exact date.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, even sooner.

However, I would like to continue by telling the Hon. Member that yesterday I had an opportunity to speak to Premier Buchanan of Nova Scotia on this subject. We have arranged to meet in the coming week to discuss, first, a report which is now in hand with respect to the alternatives with regard to Sysco. I think we will be able to make an announcement, as I say, even sooner.

TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, the meeting with Premier Buchanan will bring the same results as did the last ones. When will the Minister make an announcement approving the second phase of the modernization of Sydney Steel Corporation? Give the people an exact date. Stop leading them down the garden path.

Privilege—Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra)

● (1500)

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, this is not by any means solely a federal matter. It is a Province of Nova Scotia matter. I am consulting with the Premier and after that meeting we will be in a much better position to give an answer, such as a possible date to which the Hon. Member is referring.

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Monday, September 9, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

The petitions presented by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) by filing with the Clerk of the House also meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

The petition presented by the Hon. Member for Peace River (Mr. Cooper) by filing with the Clerk of the House does not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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PRIVILEGE

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: I am in receipt of notice of a question of privilege, I take it, from the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner).

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): I rise on a question of privilege. I would not have entered into the issue of whether Sam Wakim, the former classmate of the Prime Minister at St. Xavier, had received legal business from the Export Development Corporation had not the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) gratuitously intervened the way he did to suggest or to imply that when I was in private law practice, the firm in which I was honoured to be a partner received legal business from the federal Government. That happens not to be a fact. I never sought any business during my private law practice from the Government of Canada, nor have I received it. I want the Prime Minister to be clear about that.

I also want the House to understand that the connotation of the Prime Minister's question in return to my colleague, the Hon. Member for York South-Weston (Mr. Nunziata), as to whether the Hon. Member had telephoned or sought information from law firms in Toronto, illustrates that the Prime Minister knew more about this issue than he let on to the House.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!