

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Nowlan:** Have you spoken to Elizabeth yet?

**Mr. Pepin:** With respect to Elizabeth, I said yesterday that I was a gentleman. Being a gentleman, I did not ask where she was. It is not gentlemanly for a man to ask where a lady is. One thing is sure. On the first day of the negotiations, which was seven or eight days ago, I was informed that Mrs. Dole was not present and that Mr. Trent would negotiate with me.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Who is he?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Trent is an Under-Secretary of Transportation.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** He is also Elizabeth's chauffeur.

**Mr. Pepin:** He is a very important man. I have been in almost constant touch with him since. I call it eyeball to eyeball, nose to nose, and belly button to belly button—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Pepin:** You could not get any closer to a person, over the telephone.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nowlan:** No wonder you didn't get to Elizabeth.

**Mr. Pepin:** It has been a very good discussion. The Americans have moved quite a lot, but they have not moved enough to satisfy the primary concern of the federal Government of Canada, which is the maintenance of the route between Canada and Australia.

## REQUEST FOR TOP LEVEL DISCUSSIONS

**Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants):** Madam Speaker, there are many supplementaries I would like to address to the Minister. I certainly know now why he did not get to Elizabeth. Be that as it may, this is very serious. I am asking a very serious question.

Is the reason the Minister has been engaged in eyeball to eyeball conversation with an errand boy of the CAB because most of the CTC, especially Mr. Armstrong, the Chairman of the Air Transport Committee, is himself on holiday until April 14, and there is no one talking to Mr. MacKinnon, the Chairman of the CAB? Why does the Minister not go to the top instead of fooling around with the office boys?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, we have really been negotiating at the top. Mr. Armstrong was in touch with Mr. MacKinnon a number of times—

**Mr. Nowlan:** He is on vacation.

**Mr. Pepin:**—before he went on vacation, if he is on vacation now. Mr. Harman, the Canadian chief air negotiator, has been in Washington for the last three days. I have constantly been in touch with Mr. Trent. The Ambassador has been in touch with the State Department. My hon. friend is familiar

with some of the difficulties in negotiating with the Americans. We have been present in all the Government board rooms in the United States in recent hours. Mr. Shultz is aware of that negotiation. The President of the United States was informed of that. As a matter of fact, he signed the piece of paper which led to the whole debate.

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## AGRICULTURE

## IMPORTED TOMATOES—LABELLING AND GRADING REQUIREMENTS

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. After the \$500 million and the red meat problem, it should be very easy. The Minister will be aware of the severe problems being experienced by the tomato processing industry, especially in Ontario. I want him to keep the pressure on his colleagues to speed up the countervail action against Italian subsidized imports. However, there is another problem that is part of the same over-all problem.

There are still many products on store shelves in Canada which do not meet the labelling and grade requirements which the Canadian industry has to meet. Will the Minister indicate what action his Department is taking to ensure that all imported canned tomatoes, regardless of country of origin, meet Canadian labelling and grading requirements?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, we are all very much aware of what the Hon. Member speaks of in the industry and the problems they face because of tomato imports. I want to make it very clear that those tomato imports did not walk here by themselves. Some good corporate citizen in Canada imported them into this country, and this is causing depressed prices for Canadian tomato products in this country. Does the Hon. Member have evidence that these products which have been brought in do not meet our standards? We have done some checking through our own Department and other Government Departments. So far I have not seen a report which states that they do not meet our standards. If the Hon. Member has evidence of that, I would be only too willing to look at it. If it is clear and plain, I will take appropriate action.

## REQUEST THAT LABELS CLEARLY SHOW COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Madam Speaker, the Minister well knows that Government Departments have proven the subsidy in Italy, and there is now a countervail action against that. What I want the Minister to ensure is that all packages are clearly labelled so that Canadians have a choice. The majority of Canadians would buy Canadian, given the opportunity, but his Department has been very, very lax. There are products coming in and you cannot tell where they are coming from. They are marked as Canada Grade A, No. 1,