

*Oral Questions***TRADE****LUMBER EXPORTS—THREAT FROM UNITED STATES  
PROTECTIONIST LEGISLATION**

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for External Affairs. It concerns lumber exports to the United States. Recently in Brockville the Minister stated publicly that U.S. protectionist legislation such as the Gibbons Bill could cost Canadians 60,000 jobs, at least 30,000 of which would be lost in British Columbia. I might add that these are figures his own staff suggested I avoid using.

Would the Minister explain to the House why he has steadfastly refused to put in place a more substantial lobbying effort in the United States to balance the protectionist views with those of U.S. consumers who have a stated preference for using Canadian SPF lumber?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** First, the Hon. Member will learn as he spends more time in the House that one shouldn't always accept the advice of staff.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Ask the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Especially on travel itineraries.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Not many of us have had quite the size of staff to reject advice from as has the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry.

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

**An Hon. Member:** Right on.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** The Hon. Member will know, because we have exchanged correspondence on the matter, that there has in fact been a very substantial program mounted by the Government of Canada, using our consulates and our embassies in the United States. There has been contact with a number of congressional groups and interest groups associated with consumers of lumber in the United States, and some 400 publications. That has resulted in considerable support in the United States for the Canadian position in any disagreements we might have with the United States on lumber questions.

**Mr. Fulton:** I won't comment on the Minister's staff, Mr. Speaker.

**PROPOSED UNITED STATES RESTRICTIONS**

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Senior U.S. Government officials continue to call for voluntary restrictions on softwood exports to the United States, export taxes, and taxes on reforestation. I am sure the Minister knows that these matters are before the U. S. Cabinet this afternoon.

Would the Minister advise the House on his position regarding such restrictions and tell us whether he is prepared in any way to consider U. S. protectionist proposals against our

largest free trading industry as a pre-condition to free trade talks with the U.S.?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, in no way.

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**MEDICAL CARE****FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO PROVINCES**

**Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. It concerns the First Ministers' Conference in Halifax later this week. How can Canadians trust the Government's commitment to the standard of medicare when its own Minister of National Health and Welfare in a speech yesterday indicated that medical costs had to be curbed, and the Minister of Finance concurred with that feeling earlier this year when, in his Budget, he slashed \$2 billion in transfer payments to provinces for the establishment and funding of medicare? Is this part of the Tories' hidden agenda to dismantle medicare?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, first the Hon. Member is dead wrong. The increases which will be provided by this Government both to post-secondary education and medicare are, and will be, substantial during the five-year period about which we are talking. There is no suggestion of a cut. There will be substantial increases.

The Hon. Member should get that through his head because the rest of his question is totally false when he says that is his understanding.

**GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, how can Canadians trust that statement by the Minister of Finance—

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

**Mr. Frith:**—when, in his own budget documents tabled on the night of May 23, he indicated to Canadians that there would be no cuts in transfer payments for post-secondary education and medicare and it took a leaked document by his own Department to show the truth to Canadians that he intends to cut not just \$2 billion—

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Order.

**Mr. Frith:**—but cumulatively \$5 billion over the next four years?

**An Hon. Member:** Deny that.

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Again, Mr. Speaker, the point the Hon. Member doesn't understand—and I don't think he will ever get it through his head—is the fact that there will be substantial increases in post-secondary education and health care. The increases will be faster than the