

*Oral Questions*

## REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my final question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Since it is clearly open to the Government, after consultation with Air Canada, to involve itself in this process, and since it is clear to anyone who has looked with care at the facts that an injustice has been done, instead of having this unfairness spin out for many days, possibly months, will the Government do the correct thing for a good employee and let her return to work with dignity?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is, I suppose, better equipped than most of us when he stands in his place and asks us to believe that what he asserts is fact. I did not attend that hearing. I dare say he did not either. The Parliamentary Secretary informed the House that there is an appeal process and that is now being pursued. The hon. gentleman and his supporters would be the first to scream blue murder if the Government interfered with that due process. Surely he should have the decency to allow that appeal process, which is in place pursuant to a collective agreement, to come to a conclusion.

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## TRADE

U.S. TARIFF ON CANADIAN CEDAR SHAKES AND SHINGLES—  
COMPENSATION ISSUE

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. He said that the Government has been carefully managing the very serious issue of the 35 per cent duty on cedar shakes and shingles. How can he say that when the Government has wasted almost a whole week seeking compensation from the Americans when he, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs should have known from the beginning that the U.S. had no legal authority to grant such compensation in the first place? Why did the Government waste precious time in this way? Is this not another example of the way the Government is handling this matter as being nothing more than amateur hour on the Rideau?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, that stopped on September 4, 1984.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** We had discussions with U.S. officials and it was not at all clear what their position was going to be on the question of compensation. Following discussions in Washington it did become clear and they indicated their decision to us. However, it was not until then that we could give up that possibility. I am sure the Hon. Member would have been the first on his feet flapping away,

telling us we had let go one option we could have taken had we done that at an early stage, as he now suggests we should have done.

## TERMS OF U.S. TARIFF ANNOUNCEMENT

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand the official announcement of the duty from Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Michael B. Smith which says: "Because this tariff is not bound under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade we will not have to compensate our trading partners for any damage to their exports resulting from the tariff increase."

Did the Minister and his Government not have this release? Did they not know this from the beginning? Whatever the Minister says, this is obviously another example of the incompetence of this Government when it comes to handling our trade relations with the U.S.

● (1130)

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member makes a point that Mr. Smith said they did not have to provide compensation. Surely it is a responsibility of a Government to press the other side to make sure there are not other reasons which might allow them to give compensation. When we raised this matter with them earlier this week they said it was a matter to be considered. They spent some time considering that and came back with their answer to us at the meeting subsequent to that. It was not a closed door by any means when the matter was first raised by our Government.

REQUEST THAT INDUSTRY AND UNIONS BE INVOLVED IN  
NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Since compensation from the United States on shakes and shingles never was an option and was never supported by the Canadian industry, I would like to ask the Minister if his Government will guarantee that from this moment forward representatives of the shake and shingle industry and the workers will be directly involved in the negotiations regarding the removal of the 35 per cent duty and the definition of market share processes that are going on right now?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I was not at the meeting on Wednesday which took place at lunch time, but I believe it was indicated to the industry at that time that we intended to keep in close touch with them regarding any responses that might be taken in this particular matter.

## SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORTS

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, since the Prime Minister has refused to call the President of the United States over this unfair duty against Canada's shake and shingle industry, would the Minister of Finance advise this House whether he has been or will be making direct representations