

*Oral Questions*

● (1420)

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member did not have anything to contribute to that meeting, he need not have joined the contingent which went to Washington.

**Some Hon. Members:** Right on.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** The Ambassador made the point very clearly that we view this decision with the utmost gravity and are watching it very closely. The administration is very aware of the importance of this industry to Canada and will be watching very closely what happens over the next few days.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, the seriousness and importance of the meeting were indicated by the lack of presence of anyone from the Government at the meeting yesterday.

## REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY CANADIAN AMBASSADOR

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Why has the Government arranged an unprecedented, high-profile, last minute and futile plea by a Canadian Ambassador a few days before, as the Government knows, a high-profile “no” is going to be issued by the U.S. administration? Is the Government preparing to shoot the messenger?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, one of the things which is very important in this issue is for Hon. Members not to play politics and undermine the position—

**Mr. Tobin:** You played politics yesterday.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):**—taken by the Government of Canada in defending the interests of those in western Canada whose livelihood depends on this particular industry.

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

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** The position the Government has taken is very clear. It was presented by my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to Mr. Shultz.

**Mr. Tobin:** You should be ashamed.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** I have presented it directly to Mr. Baker. My colleague, the Minister for International Trade, has presented the position to trade representative Mr. Yeutter. All of these positions have been stated very clearly, and the Hon. Member knows that.

## VIEWS OF PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Acting Prime Minister. Yesterday in Washington

Ambassador Gotlieb presented legal arguments to Secretary of Commerce Baldrige. Here in the House the Secretary of State for External Affairs made legal arguments on natural justice and double jeopardy. The decision will be made before Monday. This is the last political window which is open. The Minister has made it clear that everyone in Cabinet who has some responsibility has made their position known. Why has the Prime Minister not made his views known on this very important countervailing action?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know how many times I have to answer this question. It is very, very clear to the U.S. administration what the position of this Government has been, and it will continue to be stated in the strongest possible way.

**Mr. Orlikow:** What does Brian say?

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER TELEPHONE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Prime Minister did not phone on shakes and shingles and we lost. Will the Acting Prime Minister call the Prime Minister in Quebec City and ask him to call the President? This has to be from the Prime Minister to the President and no other way.

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

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know that I need to respond to that question as it is exactly the same as the first question. I will say to the Hon. Member that the Government has been following this matter very closely from the early days of a possibility of a countervail action being initiated by the United States lumber industry. We will continue to follow this situation. The positions have been stated very clearly to the U.S. administration.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, it is clear that it is about time we stopped following this issue and saw some leadership from that side of the House.

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

**Mr. Fulton:** I will tell you that tomorrow afternoon I am not going to go back to British Columbia or northern Ontario and tell the forest workers of the country that the Prime Minister of the country did not have the guts to phone the President of the United States about this issue.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order!

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

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member's comments are out of order. Does he simply have a question?