

*Oral Questions*

is that we have seen we can get a greater response from the Americans in the broader context of the Uruguay round than we can in the discussions and negotiations on the FTA.

That is why we are focusing our attention there. If my hon. friend reads the proposals in the Dunkel paper on the Uruguay round negotiations, the GATT negotiations, he will see they are very positive as far as Canada is concerned.

My hon. friend raises a question about the steel industry. The Deputy Prime Minister and I met with steel industry representatives last night. We have agreed on some matters which will be discussed with their representatives. Indeed the representatives of the industry met with officials earlier today to address the problems they have, problems and concerns that we share. We believe we can address this matter much better in a co-operative way as we have agreed last night.

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**STEEL INDUSTRY**

**Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the same minister. The minister is aware through his meeting yesterday with the Canadian steel industry that the industry is hurting and that it does not have access to the American market.

What immediate action is the minister prepared to take to put Canadian steel workers back to work and to make sure our Canadian steel industry continues to be viable?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Madam Speaker, again my hon. friend is demonstrating ignorance of the issues.

My hon. friend is saying that Canadian companies do not have access to the market. What he ignores when he says that is the level of exports, the market share Canadian companies have in the U.S. market, has gone from about 3.25 per cent recently to the 4 per cent to 5 per cent range. There is access. He cannot blame the problems of the steel industry on lack of access.

If he wants to address what the problems of the steel industry are there is a range of issues he can address, many of which are in the hands of the steel industry and the steel unions themselves and not matters that are the responsibility of governments.

**Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk):** Madam Speaker, our steel industry is as competitive as any in the world as long as the minister stands up for it.

• (1425)

The minister should be aware that the recent ruling against the Canadian steel interests by his Tory appointed trade tribunal has hurt the Canadian industry. Canada has been known as the dumping ground for steel from all around the world.

Will the minister send a strong message to the international community and to his trade tribunal that Canada will not be a dumping ground for steel from all around the world?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Madam Speaker, let me make a point about what my hon. friend has just said.

We have been taking as strong a position as we possibly can in representing the steel industry in discussions it has had with the United States and in objectives it has in dealing with the United States market.

The issue my hon. friend has raised relates to a decision by a quasi-judicial board.

**Mr. Marchi:** Nonsense.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** My hon. friend says: "Nonsense". There again is a demonstration of the ignorance of the people on the other side of the House when they ask these questions.

The point is that the decision was taken by an independent quasi-judicial board. My hon. friend may have disagreements with that. The industry may have disagreements with that. The industry can appeal. It is not the position, the role or the possibility for governments to direct that quasi-judicial board on what might or might not be the results of its decisions.