

Oral Questions

Mr. Broadbent: What happened to shakes and shingles?

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The second thing we know is that in the countervail provision we have the commitment to due process which means that a court-like atmosphere will prevail.

A moment ago the House Leader of the Liberal Party said that these matters had begun since this Government was elected. He knows that precisely this matter arose in 1982-83.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): It was resolved.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The difference is that when the timber industry came to the then Opposition and asked that we not make a political issue out of this question in a way that would jeopardize Canadians interests, we agreed not to make a political issue out of this question.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The Opposition now—

Mr. Speaker: Order. A supplementary question.

WORDING OF LETTER

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, we know that President Reagan broke the Quebec Accord over the 201 on shakes and shingles. The Minister admitted that on Friday, here in Ottawa.

I want to ask the Minister again what he and his Government make of the wording in President Reagan's May 8 letter to Senator Packwood in which he said:

—I intend to press for an expedited resolution to this problem independent of comprehensive negotiations.

What do you think the President means? If you don't know, has you called, or has anybody called to ask him?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, what I know and what I make of it is that whatever the President might say for domestic reasons in the United States—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): —we have a guarantee in Canada, through the Quebec Accord, and we have a guarantee through the court-like provision that is set up for the countervail hearing, unless the actions by Canada intrude politics into that court-like proceeding. That is why it is so important that the Opposition, in this softwood case, will act as the Opposition in Parliament did in 1982 and 1983 and not intrude politics into this case. What you are doing when you play politics with the lives of British Columbians is making it much more difficult for Canada to prevail and for us to be able to secure the jobs and the future of the softwood lumber industry in British Columbia and across Canada.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

PRIME MINISTER'S TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. It was confirmed this morning that the Prime Minister sent a five-man film crew, using Air Canada, on his recent visit to Japan. In addition, he used Hercules aircraft and large film crews on recent visits to Europe and the Caribbean. Will the Deputy Prime Minister confirm that it is now public policy that, whenever the Prime Minister travels, the taxpayers will be expected to pick up the tab for the flight crew, for the load masters, for the seven staff of the Prime Minister's Office, the large equipment, and two vans? What price must the Canadian public pay for the Prime Minister's ego?

● (1430)

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. gentleman that the practice is quite normal and he will be interested to learn, I am sure, that comparing the last full 12 months of the previous Liberal Government with the last 18 months of this Government, the number of flights have decreased by 22 per cent and the number of hours flown have decreased by 23 per cent, thus amounting to a saving of some \$2.5 million to the Canadian taxpayer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Frith: The only normal thing about this is the size of the Prime Minister's ego.

PREPARATION OF VIDEO TAPES

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, what is the purpose of preparing those video tapes? To what use will they be put? Are they going to be used as election material for the next federal election? If so, is the Conservative Party going to reimburse the public treasury for the wasted dollars involved?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman should know better, but perhaps he did not have sufficient time to learn as a short-lived Minister in the previous Government. Those products normally wind up at the Archives and, indeed, sometimes supplant network material—

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Who would ever want to look at them?