

Oral Questions

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the same minister.

I want to know the real reason behind this nonsense. Is it because the owner of the second site and the member for Timiskaming just happen to be brothers-in-law?

Mr. Dave Worthy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I am terribly disappointed because that same member in discussions earlier with me indicated that she knew that that was not a factor in these bids.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Worthy: I can say, Mr. Speaker, that the brother-in-law is not involved in the development. He is a minor shareholder in a piece of property that may be involved, but I would like to remind the member that this does not do her or her party any benefit by bringing it up this way.

An hon. member: It sure helped the brother-in-law.

Ms. Copps: All in the family.

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TRADE

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. As he will know, Sydney Steel Corporation is suffering because of the countervail imposed by the United States in the amount of 105 per cent against the importation of head hardened rails by Sysco into the United States even though the only other producer in North America is back ordered for 18 months.

France and Japan are now supplying these rails to the United States even though they do not have a free trade agreement with the United States yet Canada cannot.

• (1500)

I want to know what the government is doing to get rid of this countervail so that the Sydney Steel Corporation can compete on an even footing in this United States market.

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons we have the free trade agreement is so we can object to the countervails as they

are launched against us and that is exactly what we are doing.

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, the United States needs to import these rails and Sydney Steel needs the market.

Why does the government not take some action to get rid of this countervail and do for Atlantic Canada, and particularly Cape Breton, what it said the free trade agreement would do?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, we are taking action against the countervail. We are doing exactly what you have asked us to do.

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[*Translation*]

AGRICULTURE

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for grains. In the last few hours, we were able to observe his colleagues, who had gone to Geneva to meet Mr. Dunkel, leave the meeting on their knees. Indeed, the Minister for International Trade told us that he did not get a lot of support, while the Minister of Agriculture himself said that Canada seemed unable to obtain the support needed to strengthen article XI. He then wonders why farmers are worried.

Since the senior ministers of this government admitted that they were powerless yesterday in Geneva, is the Prime Minister prepared to go himself to ensure that article XI is maintained and strengthened, as they promised in the debate on free trade?

[*English*]

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)): Mr. Speaker, I do not think anybody came out on their knees, if that is what he is suggesting. I read the transcript of the press conference that both ministers had over there from start to finish. They did have a chance to make their case very explicitly and very directly to the Director General of GATT, Mr. Dunkel, so that they understood Canada's position clearly. I think that is what the member and the people he represents would expect us to do as a government; to represent our people's views as strongly and forcefully as we can.