

*Oral Questions***TRADE**

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—LOBSTER EXPORTS

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade. Last Friday in his response to the Right Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition regarding the amendment proposed by the U.S. Senate Finance Committee that would ban the import of any Atlantic lobsters that did not meet the American minimum size, the Minister said, as reported at page 15667 of *Hansard*:

An industry-government meeting was held in Charlottetown on this subject on May 15 with respect to the impact of these regulations on the Canadian lobster fishery. Governments were represented, as were industry and the fishermen. All provincial government representatives, with the exception of the Quebec representative, supported a carapace size increase.

I have checked very carefully with industry representatives from the Province of Prince Edward Island, and they categorically deny ever supporting such an increase or ever being asked to support such an increase.

I ask the Minister today if he still stands by the statement he made in this House on Friday last.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I think I just heard the Hon. Member say that he had consulted industry representatives and they stated that they never supported such an increase. I never said that industry representatives had.

My information is, and a report about the meeting states, that all provincial government representatives, I am advised, with the exception of the Quebec representative who could not attend, supported a carapace size increase. If that is incorrect, then any Government that did not support it, of course, only has to say so. However, that is the information that I was given.

EXPORT OF LOBSTER PARTS

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I checked with the Government officials in Prince Edward Island who attended the meeting, and that was also confirmed, incidentally, to me, by the Department of Fisheries personnel who were at that meeting. I am not talking just about industry, I am talking about the Government of P.E.I. I am glad that the Minister cleared that up.

My second question is with regard to his answer to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition on Friday when he said:

I might further point out that the P.E.I. industry is largely a canner fishery which is not affected by the U.S. regulations.

● (1500)

The proposed amendment would prohibit entry into U.S. Customs territory of any whole lobster or parts of such a

lobster. Therefore, can the Minister confirm that canned lobsters, as he stated in the House on Friday, would not be affected, or lobsters in brine, or lobsters under the 3 and 7/32 carapace measurement, packed in brine, or indeed lobster tails, frozen, or lobster claws, frozen, because the amendment refers to any parts thereof? Can he confirm that his response on Friday was correct and these parts of lobsters will not come under this new amendment?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, what I will confirm is that in our firm opinion the U.S., if it amends the legislation as proposed by the Senate Finance Committee, would be in violation of the free trade agreement. We have brought this to their attention and I am hoping and expecting that the final legislation will not contain such a clause. We have protested against it, and no matter what part of the lobster is affected, we are still protesting against it and believe any such action would be a violation of the FTA. In any event, it would be a non-tariff barrier which, in my view, would be contrary to GATT as well.

Mr. Speaker: Single question, the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan.

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AIR SAFETY

CHECKING OF BAGGAGE OF AIRLINE EMPLOYEES

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Will he confirm that an airline employee travelling from Ottawa to New York City was allowed to send her luggage through to New York even though she did not possess a valid ticket to that destination? If he does, will he indicate what action he is taking with all Canadian airlines to make sure that his Government's regulations are enforced?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the company, CAIL, was advised that under the new regulations effective May 1, 1988, it should not stamp any luggage which was carried by one company and transferred to another airline if the employee concerned was not a member of that company. In other words, it could not be done as of May 1 and the company he is referring to was so advised. It was not only advised, a fine was imposed because it did not respect the rule of the new legislation.

Once again, that just started May 1 and we believe perhaps that is the reason why the company was not aware of it.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the last question of Question Period. The Hon. Member for York East.