

*Oral Questions*

immediately and will provide the hon. member with a reply as soon as possible.

**Mr. Darling:** Mr. Speaker, I am certainly surprised that the Postmaster General has not heard of this. The Vice President of the Doubleday Canada Limited is having great trouble with the backlog in Terminal A. I wonder if the chaos in the parcel post service in Toronto is due to mechanical difficulties at the new huge bulk mailing plant there? Can the Postmaster General inform the House when this expensive facility will become operational?

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that the shortcoming is not due to any problem in mechanization. The bulk plant in Mississauga, in the riding of the hon. member to my left, is operating successfully and there is no difficulty there, as I indicated to the hon. gentleman. If there is a problem with one large user, Doubleday, I have not received any representations from them but I shall look into the situation.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON BOUNDARIES AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the economic importance on the east coast of the renewable fishery resources on the Georges Bank and the importance on the west coast of the boundary separating Canada and the United States in Dixon Entrance, Juan de Fuca, and in our northern area in the Beaufort Sea where Alaska joins Canada, would the minister elaborate briefly now, and later make a statement on motions, concerning his release of October 21 and inform the House how negotiations on these important matters are proceeding and what the prospects are on the east coast of obtaining the equidistant line between Canada and the United States on Georges Bank followed then by talks on joint management of the resources?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is correct in saying that the first phase of negotiations with the United States was completed successfully from our point of view, as well as from that of the United States, I believe. Essentially what was achieved during the first round of discussions was an agreement about the manner in which the ultimate resolution of the problem will proceed. In that context an important development occurred as far as Canada is concerned in that the United States accepted the proposition of joint management of fish stocks, a plan which was advocated in large measure by east coast fishermen whom the hon. member represents. The next phase will be to see, on the basis of this agreement, how it can be translated into a treaty. The negotiators will be resuming talks within about a week or ten days. In the interim, our

[Mr. Blais.]

negotiator will be carrying on discussions with the east coast and west coast provinces that are interested.

As for the ultimate resolution in terms of the boundary itself, I would not wish to jeopardize the negotiations by indicating a specific Canadian position at the present time. I can say to the hon. member, however, as I believe he knows, that the negotiating position laid down by Canada was the equidistant line in the case of Georges Bank. This was without prejudice. This is the way things stand now. As the negotiations proceed I am very hopeful and most pleased that, despite the forebodings when the negotiations started, considerable progress has been made. The atmosphere for a resolution looks good, even though there are a lot of problems ahead.

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**TRADE****CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT—ACTION TO PROTECT CANADIAN JOBS IN VIEW OF LAY-OFFS**

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that there will be a \$3 billion deficit in the auto parts business relating to the Canada-United States auto pact, and in view of the intended lay-off of 870 employees at Anaconda Brass which would result in a further loss of Canadian auto parts business and a loss of Canadian jobs, what steps does the minister intend to take with regard to adjusting this difference and protecting jobs for Canadian workers?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would indicate that we are very concerned regarding the possibility of lay-offs at Anaconda Brass. I know that officials of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and others have been meeting to see if we can alleviate the situation. Perhaps further particulars can be given by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce on the next occasion he is in the House.

**Mr. Gilbert:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister would act in the same casual way if this affected the steel industry in Hamilton? I should like him to tell the House whether the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has received a reply to the telex he sent to Anaconda officials in regard to delaying the decision to rescind the close-down order and to continue the operations to protect Canadian business?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated the minister in question will be able to give all the details necessary with respect to the negotiations he has had with the company. I hope he will be able to do that very shortly.