

Oral Questions

What we are not prepared to do is to pretend to the people of Newfoundland and Canada that there is some quick, easy solution to this problem. There is no quick, easy solution, but we are going to pursue every avenue open to us.

Mr. Marin, the commissioner for fisheries in the European Community in his statement today certainly did not indicate that his conscience has been pricked at all or that the community is going to take any effective action. We will be looking to the international community to shame the European Community into observing their responsibilities as international citizens, to stop this overfishing and we will work with anyone, including the hon. gentleman to accomplish that objective.

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TRADE

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade, who knows that the February 21 draft North American free trade agreement text in article 1401 lists non-energy pipeline operations for unrestricted cross-border use.

Since Canada has no legislative prohibition on large scale exports of water and a number of corporations already hold rights to massive volumes of Canadian water which they would like to export to the United States, and could through article 1401, can the minister assure this House that the final NAFTA text which would override all Canadian legislation and policy on water exports will contain specific wording prohibiting large scale water exports from Canada through non-energy pipelines as can be done now under article 1404.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, let me state categorically that there has not been under negotiation nor will there be under negotiation any provision for the large scale export of water. What my friend has said and what his leader has done is to take, quite out of context, a definition of non-energy pipelines.

Non-energy pipelines can be used for coal slurry, for other non-energy related natural gas uses and those types of transportation have to be defined under the terms of the North American free trade agreement.

To take the big leap that my hon. friend and the leader of the New Democratic Party have made of saying that automatically means that there will be large scale exports of water is totally ridiculous. He knows it and she knows it because they both know that it is contrary to the policies of the Government of Canada.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, so far as I am aware, coal is an energy, but that just, once again, reveals the level of assurance we get from the Minister for International Trade. I will put my supplementary question to the Minister of the Environment who claims to be doing an environmental assessment of NAFTA as it goes along.

I would like to ask the minister in his responsibilities for water export policy and legislation a very simple question to which he can give a very direct answer. Is it the minister's understanding of the present text of the North American free trade agreement that Canadian water could be exported through non-energy pipelines? Yes or no?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the Minister for International Trade just gave a very clear answer. The Government of Canada has a policy and we intend to respect it.

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[*Translation*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. We are wearing yellow flowers today as a sign of solidarity for the family of a Montreal grandmother, Henriette Haddad, who has been held in Lebanon for nearly seven years. Mrs. Haddad's family is in Ottawa today and wants to ask the Prime Minister a question directly.

Given the inaction of his minister of external affairs, would the Prime Minister be prepared today to take on the case of the only Canadian hostage still held or missing in Lebanon?

[*English*]

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, this file has been thoroughly reviewed by me. I