

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Henderson:** I would like the Minister to answer very concisely just what action he intends to take. He had the glowing words that he said in British Columbia about what he is going to do and the power he has, but specifically will he tell the Canadian fish plant workers what action he will take if this ruling is upheld?

**Mr. Speaker:** I have listened diligently to questions both by the Hon. Member for Oshawa and the Hon. Member for Egmont. I would point out though that the questions are not only bordering on hypothetical but probably are. The Minister, of course, can answer if he wishes.

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** O ye of little faith, Mr. Speaker—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Siddon:** O ye of little faith, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Siddon:** Nothing that I have said in this House is inconsistent with what I or other members of this Government have said either in British Columbia or elsewhere in Canada in recent days.

Many members of GATT use export controls to ensure adequate supply of raw material for their own domestic industries. I would even speculate that representatives of nations who sat on that GATT panel use such export controls. What we have here is a panel recommendation which will, in all likelihood, be overturned by the GATT council of which we are a member, and we will be opposing that recommendation when it reaches the GATT council.

## CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister's assurances sound suspiciously like the assurances we kept hearing in the softwood lumber deal, and we saw what happened as a result of that. All the time that the Canada-U.S. trade talks were taking place—

**Mr. Crosbie:** Do you support GATT or not?

**Mr. Manly:** —the Americans were staking a larger and larger claim to our resources by appealing to GATT against our export restrictions.

Why wasn't the U.S. appeal to GATT part of the trade negotiations while they were taking place? Why did we not get that question solved when we were dealing face to face with the Americans?

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Get out of NATO; get out of NORAD; get out of GATT!

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** When are you leaving for Central America?

**Mr. Shields:** Elect Shirley Carr. That is who you need.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would ask the Hon. Minister's colleagues to give her the courtesy of some silence so she may answer the question.

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, in order to deal with the Hon. Member's anxieties about softwood lumber, may I remind the House that that industry has enjoyed record production and record profits this year at a time when the provinces owing the resource have experienced the refund of money to them. I can assure the Hon. Member that he does not have a problem on that front.

● (1440)

I again point out to the House that the proceedings before the GATT on this and other issues have nothing to do with the free trade agreement. For instance, in the same period in which the U.S. took this action against Canada we took action against the U.S. on their customs users' fees. That, again, is an action separate from the free trade agreement.

You will recall clearly, Mr. Speaker, that the opposition Parties have put great faith in the GATT process. They have told us over and over again to forget about bilateral agreements and deal only in the GATT. Now they do not like the result.

## EFFECT OF POSSIBLE GATT RULING ON CANADIAN JOBS

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. We have had vague assurances from the Minister, from which he is backing down all the time, that no jobs would be lost. In the meantime thousands of fisheries workers are being left in the dark. There is a GATT ruling the details of which they have not seen. No one in Canada has seen the final text of the trade agreement with the United States.

Can the Minister tell us precisely what he is going to do to ensure that those jobs will not be lost, rather than only a vague commitment?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to illustrate by example. If the precision with which we have created over one million new jobs in Canada—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Siddon:** —including over 100,000 new jobs in British Columbia, is any example, then I can ask the Hon. Member to be somewhat patient. Our objective is to create additional employment, not by being hewers of wood or drawers of water, but by adding value to all of our resources. That is in the nature of our commitment in this matter.