

Oral Questions

[English]

VISIBLE MINORITIES**JAPANESE CANADIANS INTERNED DURING WORLD WAR II—
CALL FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPENSATION**

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, this is an historic day for Canada as the National Association of Japanese Canadians and many other representatives of organizations gather in Ottawa to call upon the Government of Canada to recognize the enormous injustice done the Japanese Canadian community during the 1940s, and to urge the Government of Canada to act upon a proper redress.

This matter was put before the people of Canada by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) four years ago. Yet, in the intervening four years, the Government has hesitated at the decisive and important step—the essential step—of recognizing that individuals who suffered so profoundly and suffered so much have to be compensated as individuals if we are to be sure that a Government in the future will be deterred from taking action of this sort.

I call on the Government and the Prime Minister to enable the new Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Weiner) to carry the redress to its full conclusion, to negotiate a proper redress, to recognize the necessity of individual compensation, to arrive at a proper figure, and to remove this blot from the Canadian record.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE**UNITED STATES OMNIBUS TRADE BILL**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade. Since his appointment the Minister has not distinguished himself by his tasteless and insulting remarks to the citizens of Toronto who oppose the trade deal with the United States. I want him to know that on this side of the House we do not think he is being very funny. Those of us who oppose this deal from all parts of the country consider it a very serious matter.

The Minister knows that we have in our possession a document which is the agreement between the United States Senate and the House of Representatives on the content of the U.S. omnibus Trade Bill. Why did the Minister not advise Canadians of the existence of this agreement which is obviously so harmful to Canada in that it extends the application of unilateral trade remedy laws as authorized by Congress?

The document is dated April 6. Why in Washington did the Minister not publicly object to the stance taken by the U.S. Congress? Will the Minister now admit that Canada will not receive an exemption from the U.S. omnibus Trade Bill and

therefore be subject to a wide range of harassment from American trade interests?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the hon. apartment dweller from Toronto, whose rent is met of course by his own Party, must be one of the few Canadians who does not know that an omnibus Trade Bill is being considered by the U.S. Congress. Everybody else knows about it.

Today he had a press conference because he had a document dated April 6—eight days ago—which is supposed to be a lay summary of tariffs and tariff law provisions of this legislation which is now before a conference committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate. It has not been reported out yet. We will not have the legal text of whatever is agreed upon for several weeks after it is reported out. It may be reported out today.

Canada has made strenuous representations in connection with it. The omnibus Trade Bill is considerably improved compared to what it was in its original state.

● (1420)

Everything that the Leader of the Opposition says is just one more argument in favour of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, because if we do not have that agreement, we have, as he points out today, little protection against U.S. protectionist actions which it is adopting against the rest of the world.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Crosbie: I would like to quote what Mr. Gerald Regan, the former Minister for International Trade, stated on April 10—

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Minister would find an opportunity on subsequent questions to give the House the information that he desires to impart.

The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver—Quadra): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Minister continues in that tone we would be delighted because he is not going to do his cause any good across the country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

EXCHANGE VALUE OF DOLLAR

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): The document which we have represents the consensus of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and it will form the basis of that agreement for drafting the text of the U.S. omnibus Trade Bill. Therefore, the Senators and members of the House have agreed on the substance of that Bill, and that