

Oral Questions

The Government's cynicism is flagrant. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and his Cabinet spend freely for their own wants, for example: the largest Cabinet in history, a monstrous staff, presidential amenities, oversized delegations such as four Tourism Canada officials attending a mid-March American Society of Association Executives Convention in Orlando taking five star accommodations rather than four star, unnecessary major airport upgradings in the Prime Minister's riding, bank bail-outs, Senate appointments, patronage trough-wallowing and high-priced home movies, while postal customers in remote areas—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NOVA SCOTIA**

Mr. Gerald Comeau (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention some of the signs of strength demonstrated by the Nova Scotia economy since September, 1984.

The May inflation rate was 3.5 per cent, below the national average of 4.1 per cent. Total exports in April, 1986, were up 30 per cent compared to April, 1985. Total value of building permits in 1985 were up by 18.9 per cent compared to 1984. Total housing starts in 1985 rose by 51 per cent, to their highest level in eight years. Retail sales have increased by 14.5 per cent since the election. Realized net farm income is estimated to have increased by 7.5 per cent in 1985.

With these kinds of results Nova Scotians can finally look forward to the future with optimism.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS**PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTER OF LANDS, PARKS AND HOUSING**

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of Members the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Jack Kempf, Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing for the Province of British Columbia.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE**CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—U.S. POSITION ON FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I would like to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on trade. There is more chaos today on the trade front, just when we were beginning to think that the Prime Minister was back to his original position on a comprehensive free trade pact.

The Americans indicate to us that financial services are not going to be on the table. Since financial services are not going to be on the table, do we have a comprehensive negotiation or not? If it is going to be sectoral, as perhaps the Americans themselves are now starting to recognize, why can we not take our cultural industries and the Automobile Pact off the table as the Americans want to take off the financial services?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, they will be comprehensive negotiations. They will not be sectoral negotiations. The United States will decide what it wants to put on the table, and we will decide what we want to put on the table. We are not discussing cultural industries and cultural policy in the context of trade negotiation. We have no intention to discuss the question of an Auto Pact which, in our view, works well for Canada, and there is no need to change something that works well.

These matters have been repeated innumerable times in the House of Commons. I presume that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition keeps repeating questions because he cannot find a consistent policy of his own to follow.

[Translation]

FREE TRADE—EXTENT OF NEGOTIATOR'S MANDATE

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, once again I may observe this afternoon that our policy represents the unanimous position of our caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I shall repeat my question: Last night, an interesting confrontation between Mr. Reisman and Mr. Murphy on television confused the issue even further. Mr. Reisman claimed that our social programs were not on the table and Mr. Murphy said they were.

Could the Secretary of State please explain the situation? Does Mr. Reisman have a specific mandate? Perhaps he could table that mandate here in the House, so that we will know what is going on and whether Mr. Reisman has received clear instructions, so as not to add to the general confusion every evening.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it will be interesting for the House of