

[*Translation*]

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister and concerns Ideal Equipment Co. Ltd. in Montreal, which produces sewing machine parts in Mexico. As a result of this transfer of the company's operations to Mexico, 110 jobs in Montreal have been lost.

In the light of the proposed free trade agreement with Mexico, could the Acting Prime Minister inform the House how the government will prevent an exodus of manufacturers from Montreal, where the average wage is \$14, to Mexico, where the hourly wage is \$3?

[*English*]

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Madam Speaker, the question is always the same. Somehow or other, if any country has lower wage rates than Canada, we are not supposed to be able to compete. You compete because of good management and because of good technology. These things Canada has.

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Madam Speaker, the government in the last election and during the negotiations of free trade with the United States promised generous retraining programs. The government has failed to deliver such programs.

In case there is a free trade agreement with Mexico, can the government promise a generous adjustment program, and this time deliver?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Madam Speaker, Canada has one of the most generous training programs in the world and we intend to continue.

Mr. Prud'homme: Go to Mexico.

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister.

Many times in the House I have raised the issue that Canadians have a right to have a full debate in the House of Commons with their representatives on the projected trade deal with Mexico. There are a lot of concerns in

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Canada about the results of the Canada-U.S. trade deal. Millions of Canadians are worried and anxious about what this government is trading away this time.

Today we hear that the Prime Minister will have a telephone conversation with Presidents Bush and Salinas. We do not know what the content will be. Canadians do not know the content. We also see that the government is offering a secret briefing to committee members. When is the government going to talk to the Canadian people to allow a full debate on this trade deal with Mexico? Canadians have a right to know. Why is the government being so secretive?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Madam Speaker, the leader of the New Democratic Party knows that we have a whole system in place for consultation with the SAGIT system and that continues to operate.

I would think that she might wait and listen to what the minister has to say to the committee on Thursday.

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Madam Speaker, every time in this House we ask on behalf of Canadians to have some information, we are told to wait.

Now we hear there will be a telephone conversation today between Presidents Bush and Salinas and the Prime Minister where details of the trade deal are going to be discussed. Canadians do not want to wait until after a deal is signed to find out what has happened to shape the future of Canada. I ask the Acting Prime Minister why does he not, on behalf of his government today, come clean with Canadians and tell Canadians what is happening in this debate so that we can have a full discussion in the House of Commons?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Madam Speaker, I am sure if the President of Mexico wishes to have a three-way conversation, that conversation may well take place.

Mr. McCurdy: Open the door.

Mr. Winegard: It is just ludicrous to believe that the three principal heads of government are going to negotiate over the telephone.