

*Oral Questions*

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement also introduces a new era of opportunity for Canada's young people.

Young people like the Grade 11 students at Handsworth Secondary School in North Vancouver, British Columbia, recognizing the importance of the agreement to their future, have just completed a six-month study of its impact and implications. Their research included meetings with spokespersons on all sides, attending parliamentary hearings and meetings and forums, and surveying 1,300 households. Finally, they produced a report of their findings which they proudly presented to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) during his recent visit to Vancouver.

These students are a fine example of the seriousness with which all Canadians, young and old, should consider the merits of this agreement and prepare to take advantage of the opportunities it provides to ensure a more prosperous future for all Canadians.

● (1415)

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[*English*]

**TRADE**

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—  
OPPORTUNITY FOR CANADIANS TO GIVE THEIR OPINION ON  
AGREEMENT

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister for International Trade I would like to put a question or two to the Deputy Prime Minister.

[*Translation*]

In that case, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Prime Minister stated he was against free trade when he was running for the leadership of the Conservative Party. He never mentioned this issue during the last election campaign. He kept Canadians in the dark for two years while negotiations were under way, and now he is trying to avoid a general election before the agreement is ratified.

The Minister for International Trade stated yesterday that public hearings were held on the trade agreement across this country, and that consequently, it was unnecessary to hold further hearings. This is absolutely false, Mr. Speaker.

My question for the Deputy Prime Minister is this: When were Canadians given a chance to express their views on the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement on the basis of the text of the agreement to which the Minister referred yesterday? The Minister alluded to last fall's hearings, but the committee did not have the text. How do we explain this failure to give Canadians across the country a chance to express their views on the basis of the actual text of the agreement?

[*English*]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition will agree that the extent of consultation with regard to this initiative has been unprecedented. There have been more than 10 First Ministers' meetings respecting this very important initiative. There have been a number of bilateral meetings between the Ministers of Trade of the provinces and the Government of Canada. Private sector groups have been set up to deal with this issue. There have been a number of debates in Parliament. There have been committee hearings.

This proposal is put before the House in response to the protectionist tendencies in the United States and will serve to enhance trade, secure trade, and enshrine it in law in such a manner that Canadians and Canadian industry can plan with some degree of certainty and can build for the future.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this initiative is good for all the provinces, all the regions, and all Canadians, and it is good for Canada.

TEXT OF AGREEMENT—COST OF PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister has still not explained to the country why a deal of this importance has not been available to Canadians, professional groups, business groups, and labour unions right across the country to deal with the text.

Despite a few cosy meetings with the premiers, some of whom have told me that those meetings have not been fulsome at all, there has been no opportunity for the people of Canada to comment on the actual text of this agreement.

So far, \$30 million of taxpayers' money has been spent on the trade negotiator's office. More than an additional \$12 million of taxpayers' money has been spent on a propaganda campaign to sell this deal. We now learn that the Prime Minister and the Minister for International Trade have set up yet another propaganda team under John Laschinger, the former organizer for the Minister of Trade during his quest for the leadership of the Conservative Party.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister confirm the existence of this new propaganda team? Will he describe what its role is to be? Will he give us an estimate of what its cost is going to be? Will he tell us whether the taxpayers of the country or the Conservative Party will be paying for this propaganda?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the Government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, was elected to lead and it has led. We campaigned during the last election on the importance of enhancing international trade, securing trade with our best trading partner to the south, and expanding trade opportunities in all parts of the world. We have kept that promise, we have responded.