

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)):** Mr. Speaker, I will be brief because I appreciate that this is an opposition day and I do not want to impinge on their time.

I have listened to the comments of my friends across the way and I must admit that I appreciate there is no question, there must be free and unfettered access by a constituent to his or her Member of Parliament. I do not think that is in issue.

The issue here is complicated somewhat by the fact that my hon. friend's constituent is incarcerated and there are preventive measures normally taken in institutions with respect to communications with those incarcerated. I suggest that we will be further enlightened on this matter by the Solicitor General (Mr. Kelleher).

However, it might be instructive if I were to advise the House that the chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General has advised me that his committee will be touring penitentiaries in the very near future. I think the subject matter of what communication can take place between an incarcerated constituent and his or her Member of Parliament would be a subject matter worthy of some further investigation on a general basis. In any event, I will take it up with the Solicitor General and get back to the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House has heard an intervention by way of an application concerning a question of privilege by the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata). Other Members have contributed to the debate. I accept with some thanks the Hon. Minister's indication that he will be taking this matter up with the Solicitor General (Mr. Kelleher) and reporting back. In view of what the Chair sees as the serious nature of this case, perhaps the Hon. Member could discuss the matter further with the Hon. Minister of State (Mr. Lewis) to see when the Solicitor General might be able to make a comment which might be helpful to the Chair.

I see the Hon. Member for York South—Weston nodding in agreement, and I take it he will speak with the Minister and between the two of them get back to the Chair to indicate when I could hear the Solicitor General on this matter.

**Mr. Nunziata:** If I may, Mr. Speaker, I take it that you simply wish to solicit some information from the Solicitor General. However, if the facts as I have alleged them are accurate, my question of privilege remains and I would still request that the matter be referred to committee for investigation.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair understands completely the position of the Hon. Member. It would be helpful to the Chair if I could hear from the Solicitor General, and I am indebted to the Hon. Member for co-operating in that regard.

### *Supply*

I want to say something else, especially to the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) and the Hon. Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier) with regard to a matter raised a few days ago. There has been some effort to try and get all the parties back in the Chamber to address the matter further. It had been my hope that that might be done this afternoon. However, in view of the fact that it is an Opposition Day the Chair is reluctant to use more time this afternoon so I again ask the co-operation of all Members and I will try and get the matter back on the floor of the House as soon as possible.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 82—CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):

That this House condemns the Government for its inept negotiations of a trade agreement with the United States that undermines Canadian sovereignty and requires excessive and unacceptable concessions by Canada but gains virtually nothing in return, that still fails to provide protection for Canadian industries from restrictive United States trade laws and that caves in to all United States demands in key sectors, especially agriculture, energy, automobiles, financial services and investment while threatening hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs without the Canadian Government's providing any adjustment assistance for Canadian workers.

And the amendment of Mr. Broadbent (p. 10365).

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin my remarks by reporting to the House on two very comparable experiences. Last Thursday, when I was in Alberta, I participated in a province-wide hotline show. We took some 15 or 20 calls on the question of free trade, about 80 per cent of which were either totally opposed to free trade or questioned the validity of the proposal. Last night in Toronto I was on a television hotline show which lasted for about two hours. We had over 6,000 responses, of which 76 per cent were against and 24 per cent for.

I am not saying those figures are definitive. I simply want to point out that Canadians view this matter as one of the most serious, indeed crucial decisions that they and this Parliament will have taken in our generation. No one should be under any illusion that this is simply another ordinary Government initiative such as putting a tax on dog food or something like that. This goes to the very heart, soul and mind of this country. Canadians are deeply concerned and they want to comprehend what it is all about.

It was in that spirit that we presented this resolution today. I want to note that this is the first time we have had the opportunity for any kind of extensive debate on this issue since the initiative was announced. I appreciate the initiative taken by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) and