

ing any opportunity to be of assistance in finding a permanent solution to that troubled situation.

**Some Hon. Members:** What about Malaysia?

**Mr. Regan:** I want to say to the Hon. Member that he deals with a totally different subject when he talks about the sale of Canadian goods and services overseas.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Order.

**Mr. Regan:** The sale to Malaysia about which he is talking results in 4,000 man years of employment in this country. It results in the sale of goods and services. That is the business we are in. Indeed, if the Hon. Member wants to say that we should not sell the machinery for a plant of the type that exists in this country, I would say to him that would be putting his head very firmly in the sand, because there were five other countries in competition for that contract that would have been happy to have it. The result of Canada winning the contract means that the jobs come to Canada. Let us help our industries, but let us not stop selling our goods and services overseas.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for St. Catharines.

**Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment but he has just stepped behind the curtains. If he would take his place, I would pose my question.

**An Hon. Member:** He has gone.

**Mr. Reid (St. Catharines):** I will reserve my question then, Mr. Speaker.

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### TRADE

#### CANADA-UNITED STATES SECTORAL FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of International Trade. Will the Minister tell us with respect to the Canada-U.S. sectoral free trade negotiations whether agreement has been reached between the two Governments on three fronts, namely, farm machinery in all its aspects, software and data processing, and speciality steel? Will the Minister also tell the House what the status is of red meat, petrochemicals, and surface transportation?

**Mr. Speaker:** May I suggest to the Hon. Member one question at a time.

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Mr. Speaker, I think my answer to the Hon. Member might be rather general, or it might take a considerable period of time. But I want to thank him for the question because I am

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glad to see that keen interest on the part of the Hon. Member in an area of negotiations between our two countries which can be of great meaning to the Canadian economy and to the creation of additional jobs in this country.

● (1200)

Negotiations with the Americans on the subjects which the Hon. Member mentioned are underway at the same time as the exploration of the feasibility in each sector is being undertaken by officials of the Governments of the two countries. We are hopeful that progress will continue to be made, but it cannot be achieved overnight.

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### WESTERN GRAIN TRANSPORTATION ACT

#### APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. As he knows, under the Western Grain Transportation Act the Government has a duty and obligation to appoint a Grain Transportation Agency Administrator. Has a decision been made on who will be receiving that appointment? When will the announcement be made? Perhaps the Minister could also indicate whether there is any truth to the rumour floating around that the present Chairman of CNR is in line for the job?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, we would have to extend Question Period by double its time if I were to enunciate all the various rumours, speculations, requests and submissions respecting the Grain Administrator.

In answer to the Hon. Member's question, a decision has not been made on that particular position. I hope to be in a position to make a recommendation to Cabinet some time in the next week or ten days on that. However, I am still engaged in very active consultations with a wide variety of sources. Certainly I would be glad to have further representations from the Hon. Member for Vegreville.

#### LIST OF CANDIDATES

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I have a short supplementary question for the same Minister. Could he indicate whether the current Chairman of CNR is on the short list of candidates for that job?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, if my memory is correct, a number of members of that very distinguished western family have been appointed to very senior positions as grain administrators in the past. Who knows what will happen in the future?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!