

Can the minister assure this House and Canadian industrialists that Canada will participate in these negotiations so that it can adjust to any new competition that might arise?

[English]

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada has not yet decided whether or not we wish to participate in any discussions or negotiations that occur between the United States and Mexico on a possible free trade arrangement.

As I explained to the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs yesterday, we intend to consult the provinces, the business sector, the labour movement, and members of this House before we make a decision on that. Of course we do not know whether or not there will be a free trade agreement between the United States and Mexico. There will be no decision made as to whether negotiations will be entered into likely until December. We certainly have, I would suggest, until the end of September to make up our own minds as to whether we wish to be involved or not.

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#### HOUSE OF COMMONS

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It concerns the vacancy in the riding of York North, created by the decision of the Supreme Court of Ontario on May 28, 1990.

The Prime Minister has already called two by-elections, one in Oshawa and one in Laurier—Sainte-Marie in Montreal, for August 13, 1990. I wonder if the Prime Minister could tell the House today if the people of York North will have a chance to vote early on a representative in the House of Commons. Will he call the election on August 13 for York North? He has until June 25 to call the election. Will he do it before that?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my hon. friend for the comment but I have not had a chance to give it the thought it deserves. I will and get back to him. If I thought that the soon-to-be leader of the Liberal Party were interested, I would like to see him in the House as soon as possible.

#### Petitions

**Mr. Speaker:** A point of order, the hon. member for Kamloops.

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#### POINT OF ORDER

##### REQUEST TO REVERT TO ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on two points of order. Earlier in the day, the government whip sought unanimous consent to revert to Routine Proceedings for some government business. Consent was naturally given. Because of the proceedings this morning, we missed the presentation of petitions. I wonder if I could seek unanimous consent to revert to petitions to allow members to present their petitions before we get on to other business of the day.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Kamloops has asked the House for unanimous consent to revert to petitions. Is there agreement? The hon. member for Calgary West on the same point.

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, as the whip of the government party, I asked for unanimous consent this morning to table a committee report. I am not quite clear on the request. Is this a request to put a single petition on the table or are we looking at a whole lot of petitions that might eat up an hour or two? What is the nature of the request?

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I have not done a count but I assume there might be half a dozen members presenting petitions and since we missed it earlier, we may want to conduct the business in the usual way if there is unanimous consent to do so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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#### PETITIONS

##### LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to present some 12,500 signatures from across British Columbia on petitions certified correct pursuant to Standing Order 36, co-ordinated by Greenpeace and the Alliance Against Low Level Flights.

These petitioners join with organizations representing hundreds of thousands of British Columbians, First Nations, labour, churches, peace groups, environment groups, and disarmament groups, in calling upon the government of Canada to cancel all low-level military