

versity of Toronto Professor John Crispo as his hired gun to carry out this government's vendetta against the CBC.

As we know, Mr. Crispo is notorious for his unabashed hatred of the CBC and views Canada's public broadcaster as a nest of anti-government, left-wing "pinkos" and a dangerous, if not evil force on our society. Those are his words.

Why is the Prime Minister intent on heightening his attack by engineering even more strife on Canada's public broadcasting system and why is he using Mr. Crispo and his take-no-prisoner rhetoric to carry out his scorched earth policy against the CBC?

Mr. Loiselle: You missed a couple of clichés.

Mr. Epp: That is okay, he will get a supplementary.

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, there are 15 members of the CBC board. I do not have an indication of the political affiliation of the members of the CBC. In fact, the only person I may know personally is the wife of one of the senators who, I am sure, is deeply committed to the continuance and to the operation of the CBC.

• (1450)

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Crispo was one of this government's most ardent and vocal supporters of the free trade during the 1988 elections.

In light of U.S. trade negotiator Carla Hills' comments that under the Mexican Round, Canadian cultural industries will be on the free trade table, I would like to ask the Prime Minister through his deputy why it is his intention to use Mr. Crispo to dismantle the Canadian public broadcasting system under a trilateral free trade pact with the U.S. and Mexico. Or, does he just figure he has not done enough damage to the system already?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Every time Carla Hills speaks the NDP shakes, but we do not. The United States might want to discuss the issue of cultural industries. We are not against discussing anything with anybody. But we do not propose any changes in the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement,

which protected our cultural industry, and we are going to continue protecting our cultural industries.

The Mexicans are not threatening our cultural industries. So the hon. gentleman should not quake every time Mrs. Hills speaks.

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TRADE

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): My question is also for the Minister for International Trade.

I would like to say to him that when John Crosbie speaks Canadians laugh, and it is not a laughing matter.

Since the introduction of the free trade agreement, we have lost 220,000 manufacturing jobs across this country. Since the arrival of the GST, we have lost 71,000 jobs in the service sector.

Given that the minister admitted earlier in this Question Period that the Americans are violating the spirit of the current free trade agreement, why is he pursuing willy-nilly a new trade agreement with another country with no conditions attached?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): We do not have an agreement yet with any other country. We have one free trade agreement so far, and that is with the United States.

We have got certain very firm benefits from that. We know that the United States is worried about its economic position in the world and there are very protectionist influences there. We know at the present moment the President is trying to get authority from Congress for an up-or-down power with respect to negotiating trade agreements, the fast track authority, and that therefore has some influence on what American officials say.

We have to live with the United States. It is right next door to us. We have been living with it now for some 125 years. The hon. lady does not have anything to fear. We are here protecting her and all those who think like her against the perils of living next to this giant neighbour. Because we have got this agreement, we now have a solid foundation with which to defend our interests in the United States whenever they are threatened.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): I do not need your protection. The people who need your protection—