

Oral Questions

programs, financial services policies, auto-pact regulations, and broadcast rules.

Does the Prime Minister intend to change any or all of the programs which the United States says must be changed under the terms of the agreement?

While I am at it I ask the Prime Minister whether Canada has a list of improper trade practices and administrative regulations of the United States which contravene the agreement. If so, why has that document not been made public?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, we will have to make our own report in due course as to whether we think the U.S. legislation complies with the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, or whether there are any provisions of its laws which do not so comply. Under its legislation the United States has the same duty or obligation.

Of course the Americans can have their own opinions about various matters here in Canada as to whether they think they violate one principle or the other, or whatever. But that is not determinative of the situation. We have our own views of what complies with the Free Trade Agreement and what does not.

There is nothing unusual or alarming about the Americans having opinions that are contrary to our opinions. We will continue to hold ours and to put our own position forward.

TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR AFFECTED WORKERS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, there may be nothing alarming in the mind of the Minister, but at least the Americans have a forthrightness to be public about what they have in mind for the implementation of this trade agreement. My point to the Minister is that if he has anything in mind—something which we begin to doubt—would he render public what the Canadian position is on American administrative practice and regulation?

Since the election there have been massive lay-offs announced by several Canadian industries—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McDermid: Come on! That is why you are over there.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The new Minister from Brampton is becoming just as sensitive as his colleague from St. John's.

Under the Prime Minister's trade deal with the United States will the Government of Canada be allowed to provide new training and retraining programs for these workers who have been displaced? More important, why has the Prime Minister been stalling on the introduction of any adjustment policy? All he has told the country so far is that we must await the de Grandpre Report. That might be months and months away. Does he not realize that the workers at Canada Packers, Northern Telecom, Pittsburgh Paints, Catelli, and Gillette have already lost their jobs? They cannot afford to wait for the Prime Minister.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1420)

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, what the Prime Minister and I and other members of the Government have made clear is that we have in place the Canadian Jobs Strategy which provides—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. McDougall:—which provides an adaptable and flexible approach to job training both in terms of skill development and skill investment so that people can upgrade for the future.

We have also made it clear that we are committed to innovative and generous adjustment and retraining programs to assist individual Canadians under the Free Trade Agreement as under other economic concerns.

The Canadian economy is constantly adapting. That is why we as a nation have had such an excellent record in the past few years. There are, for example, 1.5 million layoffs in Canada in any typical year, where someone doesn't return. We are prepared to deal with that as we are with other things.

RISK TO CANADIAN PLANTS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister in response to the answer provided by the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It is interesting to know why the Government has cut back by 32 per cent the actual expenditures under the Canadian Jobs Strategy program.