

Oral Questions

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, it is pretty clear to observers that our fallback position needs to go to tariffication.

Since the final negotiations are likely to conclude after this Parliament recesses and perhaps before Christmas, will there be any recourse to Parliament on behalf of the government once an agreement or proposal is forthcoming from the GATT? Will Parliament be consulted? Will the provinces be consulted? Or, will anything signed at Geneva be a done deal which will simply come back to a majority House for approval?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, it is clear the hon. member and his party are now unhappy with the GATT. They seem to be unhappy with the MTN. It will be very interesting to see what his party says when a new GATT agreement is brought before the House. Of course Parliament will be consulted. Parliament has always been consulted on multinational questions of trade, tariffs, supply management and will continue to be.

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GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, just five weeks ago the cost of this government's prosperity exercise was set at \$15 million plus \$4.5 million for so-called ads.

Yesterday the industry minister said that the cost was now up over \$21 million, plus an amount that he could not even estimate for advertising.

Will the government table today a detailed budget showing all moneys to be spent out of public funds for this prosperity exercise including the full cost of his "let's feel happy" Tory propaganda?

• (1430)

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend likes to read the headlines in the newspaper and stop right there. If he would read the Canadian Press story further, he would have got the answer to the very question that he asked.

I will be very happy to give him the answer. First of all, it is not \$21 million for advertising. The expenditures for communication activities which include printing and

distribution of discussion papers and other reports, public opinion research and media analysis will be \$5.1 million, not \$21 million.

[*Translation*]

Mr. David Berger (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the same minister. Where are this government's priorities? It says there is no money for university or industrial research or for export development. Aren't these priorities? Could the minister explain to Canadians how he managed to find an extra \$5 million for government propaganda, when he can't even find the money to help Canadians invest in research and develop their export markets?

[*English*]

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had attended any of the community consultations under the prosperity consultations, he would have seen that there was an unprecedented desire for information across Canada on how we can become more competitive and how we can become more prosperous. That is what this exercise is about and that is why there has to be a limited amount of communications in order to encourage people to get involved in the process.

It is working and it is working very well. When Canadians work together we can take on the world and win. That is our message. We want to involve Canadians in that process, and that is what this program does.

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NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the energy minister.

Western Canada's natural gas producers rely on exports to markets in the United States in a very large measure. The California Public Utilities Commission has ordered the largest utility in northern California to dump its long-term contracts with western Canadian gas producers, clearly violating article 905 of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

The Independent Petroleum Association of Canada has asked our National Energy Board to convene a hearing on this matter as quickly as possible. Will the