

workers in the petro-chemical industry . . . Yes, that is what you did! Besides, the figures show that in Quebec, the previous Liberal Government created 673 new jobs a month, while we have created 9,286. That is the difference.

Mr. Speaker, I insist that without this unfortunate decision by the Liberal Party to shut down the petro-chemical industry in Montreal, we would not be in the mess we are today. Thanks to you!

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[English]

### TRADE

#### CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Two studies have now been released, one by the Ontario Government and one by the Centre for Policy Alternatives, both warning that hundreds of thousands of jobs in branch plants will shift to the United States. Does the Prime Minister agree with the following statement:

Free trade with the U.S. is like sleeping with an elephant . . . He is going to roll over in times of economic depression and they are going to crank up those plants in Georgia, North Carolina and Ohio and they are going to be shutting them down up here.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** I will agree that it is a very elegant statement, but I must tell my hon. friend that I think I have seen the study to which he refers, but I am not sure. I noticed one reported in the *Toronto Star* today which was billed as some great study put out by a research director for one of our leading trade unions. I think we can understand where they come from. Just look at Jim Laxer.

#### REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER ACCEPT CONCLUSIONS OF STUDIES OPPOSING FREE TRADE

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, of course the statement I quoted was made by the Prime Minister before the election.

**Mr. Mulroney:** That's why I said it was elegant.

**Mr. Langdon:** He went on to say that if the elephant ever rolls over, you're a dead man. Will the Prime Minister now agree that he was right then, and accept the conclusions of these two new studies, one by the Ontario Government and the other by the Centre for Policy Alternatives, that show that free trade will be an economic tragedy for Canada?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, what is it in the NDP socialist psyche that makes them so insecure? We are going to have to hire babysitters for you people.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Mulroney:** Why is it that you are so timorous? What is the matter with you? They are afraid to compete. They want walls and protectionism. This country, Canada, can be strong and vibrant and can compete with the world and create new wealth and new jobs. That is what we are going to do.

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

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[Translation]

### CORPORATIONS

#### INQUIRY IF GOVERNMENT DISPOSED TO LET GAZ MÉTROPOLITAIN BUY GULF REFINERY IN MONTREAL EAST

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister. I have to tell you that the workers who are here now and who expect to lose their jobs must find your performance rather pitiful, not to mention the Conservative Members who are frolicking while those workers' jobs are on the line.

Mr. Prime Minister, the National Assembly of Quebec will adopt a unanimous resolution urging you to intervene and block the sale of Gulf to Ultramar. Is the Prime Minister prepared to do just that through Investment Canada and cancel the deal between Gulf and Ultramar so as to enable Gaz métropolitain to buy the Montreal East Gulf refinery?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** As far as I know, the Quebec National Assembly has yet to be called. Are you telling me that you are in the secure possession not only of the truth but of the Speech from the Throne as well?

Because we never . . . on the contrary, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the workers are watching us. The workers of Quebec know that only 673 jobs were created between 1979-80 and 1984, just as they know that any attempt to get Quebec City and Ottawa to co-operate was thwarted by the Liberal Government, whereas we have begun a new era of co-operation with the duly elected Government of Quebec, and we intend to work together in this case as well.

#### INQUIRY IF GOVERNMENT DISPOSED TO STOP SALE OF GULF TO ULTRAMAR

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I will get a hold of myself, but I wish you would ask the Prime Minister to be frank for once in his life, if he can.

Mr. Prime Minister, we are not joking, and this is not a Conservative caucus. The Gulf workers want to know right now: Can you announce today that you will step in and block the sale of Gulf to Ultramar to enable Gaz métropolitain to buy the refinery and save 450 jobs? Can you have human feelings? We are talking about 450 individuals.