

Oral Questions

Party put a motion requiring the inclusion of safeguards to protect the workers and the auto industry in Canada, that that motion was supported by the Conservatives?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry—

Mr. Broadbent: Turn up your hearing aid.

Mr. Mulroney: I would be happy to respond to the question. I did not hear the beginning of the question. I would be happy to respond to it.

Mr. Deans: I hope this is not considered a supplementary question. Does the Prime Minister recognize that the motion that was put by the New Democratic Party in 1964, that requested that additional safeguards be included in the negotiation process to protect workers and the Canadian industry, which ultimately occurred, was supported by the Conservative Party?

• (1430)

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, if there was a motion 20-odd years ago—

Mr. Deans: That's what you're talking about.

Mr. Broadbent: It was you, you!

Mr. Mulroney: It was—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. Members who are waiting to ask questions should know that if they interject it may cause a problem later.

Mr. Mulroney: The motion in 1965—

Mr. Deans: Sixty-four.

Mr. Mulroney: —or 1964, to support the interests of the workers: one may be sure that the Progressive Conservative Party supported it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: So much for consistency.

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Let me ask the Prime Minister, however, on a more serious note, is the free trade that the Prime Minister is suggesting we want the free trade that we have had for 50 years in shakes and shingles, or is it the managed trade arrangement that we have had for the last 15 years, or thereabouts, in the auto industry?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, whether we achieve it or not, I do not know; and I have indicated this to the House and to the country. What we are seeking is a comprehensive bilateral trade arrangement—

Mr. Deans: What type?

Mr. Mulroney: —which secures the access of Canada to the American markets to ensure that such things as shakes and shingles never happen again.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PROVINCES' PROCUREMENT POLICIES

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister's memory is as flexible, it appears, as is his definition of free trade today. Last night he held out a tremendous carrot to Canadians. He said that Canadian companies would be able to compete on an equal footing with U.S. companies for American government contracts worth up to \$750 billion. What he did not say was that American companies would expect the same treatment here in Canada.

I want to ask the Prime Minister whether or not the provincial Governments have agreed, with respect to their procurement policies, to set aside their preferential treatment policies where they exist in some provinces and to open up their bidding processes to American companies, in a free trade agreement, to the detriment of companies in their own provinces.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if, as a result of a liberalized trading arrangement, contractors in Quebec, for example, could use bricks from Ontario—if you limit that kind of restrictive measures, as I think Premier Peterson quite properly pointed out—the national wealth grows. What we are trying to do is create a larger market which will attract Canadian skills and technology and Canadian know-how so as to ensure a greater creation of wealth and jobs at home. The question is, has it been specifically discussed and resolved as between levels of government? I think the answer to that is no. Is it there as a matter for discussion with the First Ministers? Absolutely, and we shall hopefully resolve it on an ongoing basis as we continue a very intensive process of consultation with the First Ministers of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has given us a straight answer, and I appreciate it, because he has confirmed that there is no such agreement with the provincial Governments to seek this kind of national treatment policy.

FEDERAL POSITION

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, given the fact that the Prime Minister has admitted that the mandate he proposed last night has not been accepted in this country among Governments, will he tell us now that he will instruct negotiators not to pursue this national treatment policy he articulated last night until such time as he has received from the provinces of this country an agreement to proceed whereby they will open up their procurement policy to American contractors south of the border? Not bricks between