

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, located in Canada's most industrialized city, Hamilton, was set up as an access for workers, both union and non-union, companies, and others to the most up-to-date information about chemicals and other dangers present in the workplace. Believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, the Treasury Board has now told the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety that it must raise \$1 million in private funds by 1992 if it is to survive.

The time has come for the workers of the country to tell the Government that the lives and health of working people are not to be bartered away by the almighty dollar. It will be impossible for the Centre to raise the \$1 million by the end of 1992. That will spell the end of the Centre.

I think it is a crying shame for the people of the country that the Government does not believe in getting information out to workers about chemical spills and other labour hazards in the workplace. That is the role of the Government. It is not the role of a private company to pay for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. The Treasury Board had better get that message.

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● (1430)

TRADE

POSITION OF MANITOBA PREMIER ON CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Léo Duguay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, Howard Pawley returned from a weekend love-in with the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) and union leaders Shirley Carr and Bob White demanding a federal election on free trade. In the same breath he refused to recall the Manitoba Legislature to discuss the issue, but announced instead that he would be holding propaganda style closed meetings by invitation only to sell his opposition.

Could this be the same Government that spent \$2 billion to build the Limestone hydro generating station?

Could this be the same Government that wants to export more energy from another hydro station at Conawapa downriver from Limestone?

Could this be the same Government that earmarked \$80,000 U.S. to fight an American group lobbying against hydro imports from Manitoba?

How can the New Democrats of Manitoba oppose free trade and fight for improved access at the same time?

As the Winnipeg *Sun* said this morning: "Pawley and his advisors may find out that Manitobans are a lot smarter than they think".

Oral Questions

HOUSE OF COMMONS

EVACUATION CAUSED BY FIRE ALARM—EMPLOYEE'S PROMPT ACTION

Mr. Speaker: Before we get into Question Period I want to say something that I believe all Members would want expressed on their behalf. I had hoped that my remarks just before we assembled would have covered this, but I am informed that for some reason they were not covered on the television broadcast. I want to repeat them because I think the people of this country and all Hon. Members ought to know that when we had a fire alarm a little while ago all of us owed a tribute to one of our workers, whose name I do not yet have but will obtain and deal with appropriately when I do.

This employee identified a malfunction in a motor and was able to alert other people immediately. As a consequence, the Fire Department was called.

I was on the sixth floor and on the roof of the building with members of the Fire Department. I want to say to you and the country that they were extraordinarily well led, effective, confident and competent.

We are indebted indeed for the very swift action that was taken, beginning, as I say, with an employee of this place who very correctly and alertly discovered the problem and was then very well supported by the officers and members of the Fire Department.

I know that you would want to join with me in saying to these people that what they have done is appreciated by this place.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—SCHEDULING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, Canadians have been advised by the Minister of Finance that the complete and final text of the trade agreement between Canada and the United States may not be tabled until the end of November. He used the phrase "six weeks" when he made that statement.

However, the Prime Minister said on October 5, as reported at page 9632 of *Hansard*:

I shall table the complete text of the Agreement as soon as the wording is finalized. It will then be referred to the appropriate committee of the House for analysis, study and debate.

Those were the Prime Minister's words.