

*Oral Questions*

British Columbia farmed salmon production will reach 25,000 tonnes valued at \$200 million. On the East Coast cultured shellfish production is important. Let us, Sir, encourage this trend and do everything possible to facilitate this exciting new industry.

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[Translation]

**TRADE**

## POSITION OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte Marie):** Mr. Speaker, we had another example yesterday of this Government's and the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) crummy behaviour. Imagine, the chairman of a labour union summoning its members to report on their collective agreements negotiations. And once the meeting is opened, imagine the union chairman telling the members: "Now that you are here, I am sorry, but I cannot give you any explanations as to the contents of the negotiations because this could be prejudicial to the process." Mr. Speaker, such naive behaviour on the part of the Prime Minister and the Government is unacceptable in my view, and yesterday we heard about our leader's position. The Liberal Leader was clear, accurate and specific as to our position concerning the free trade negotiations.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[Translation]

**CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY**

## FREE TRADE—NATIONAL DEFENCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I would direct my question to the Prime Minister. In his remarks on free trade yesterday the Prime Minister did not deal with the question of Canadian sovereignty, our sovereignty, our national independence.

Now it is clear that United States President Reagan knows full well what he wants from these negotiations on free trade and acid rain—that Canada sacrifice its independence in defence matters. Does the Prime Minister know that Canadians will never let the United States dictate our defence policy in exchange for a free trade agreement?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** To begin with, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has just made two inaccurate statements. First, he is saying that I did not deal with the national sovereignty issue yesterday, while in fact my colleagues and I talked about it at length and said that the whole process was aimed at protecting and strengthening our national sovereignty.

Second, with respect to his suggestion concerning President Reagan—

**An Hon. Member:** That is false.

**Mr. Mulroney:** There again it is false. There is no link whatsoever between our national defence commitments and any other aspect of our national life. With respect to the Government of Canada, there has been no reference to this under any circumstance by anybody whatever.

● (1420)

[English]

## INTRODUCTION OF WHITE PAPER ON DEFENCE

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question concerns the link between free trade and defence. The responses this morning by the Prime Minister's Ministers and officials were very cautious. We have been promised the Government's White Paper on Defence for a number of months. Will the Prime Minister be revealing the defence policy to Members of the House of Commons before his meeting with the President of the United States in early April, or will the President be bringing the document with him?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, let me say for the record that there is no link, nor has any link ever been sought or mentioned, between a question of national defence and any other question on the bilateral agenda. No linkage has ever been suggested in my presence or in the presence of any of our Ministers or government officials.

In regard to the White Paper for which the Minister of National Defence is responsible, my hon. friend knows that since we came to office we have already increased our conventional commitment to NATO, we have already sent 1,200 more men and women to NATO, and we hope to do more. This is not a neutral country. Under this Government, this country stands clearly on the side of the allies and freedom, and the White Paper will reflect precisely that.

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

## REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a further question on free trade and sovereignty. Yesterday in the House in their speeches on free trade, the Prime Minister and the Minister for International Trade in effect confessed a total lack of a regional economic equality development policy. What the Government has done is slash our own programs. Yesterday the Prime Minister called on the free trade agreement, if he obtains it with the United States, to rescue our disadvantaged regions. If Canada's policy of regional development is not on the negotiating table, as the Prime Minister undertook yesterday, why, in the motion on free trade before the House this afternoon, is there not one line or one word on regional equality and regional development?