

Oral Questions

structured to provide compensation for literally every grape grower in Canada who, by this agreement, will be out of business within two years.

Energy Board? Why is the Government again abandoning its powers to the provinces?

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

POSITION OF LIBERAL PARTY LEADER

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, in 1976, the present Leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. Turner) resigned from his Party because in his opinion its policies were leaning too much towards socialism and were contrary to the basic principles of a healthy economy. He left because he considered that the Government was intervening far too much in the economy, was accumulating too much of a deficit and was showing an obvious lack of respect for the free market forces.

From 1976 to 1984, Liberals kept on increasing governmental control of the economy, making Canadians more and more dependent on interventionist policies, resulting in the private sector getting discouraged when faced with ever rising interest rates and increasing unemployment.

In 1984, Canadians saw the light and gave us the mandate to reduce the deficit, to put the economy back on track, and we are doing well. However, the Liberal Leader is now changing his mind again. His new creed is that the State must take charge of the management of the economy.

The Liberal Leader is afraid of the Socialists. If you cannot beat them, join them. He will embrace them, Mr. Speaker, the better to stifle them, hopefully.

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[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—EFFECT ON ENERGY INDUSTRY

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, the Government is not satisfied to give away energy in the trade agreement, now it wants to deregulate energy sales to the United States.

At the present time energy has to be offered to dependent provinces at a comparable rate before it is sold to the United States. To do away with this system would leave quite a few of the provinces dependent on energy without an assured supply.

Why is the Government doing that? The Province of Prince Edward Island will be the hardest hit. It will not have that assured supply. Why is the Government abandoning its responsibility and taking away the power of the National

DISARMAMENT

SIGNING OF U.S.A.—U.S.S.R. AGREEMENT

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, in spite of concerns about the Soviet Union, all Canadians yearn for peace. Because of that, we warmly welcome the Intermediate Nuclear Arms Reduction Treaty signed today, and we look forward with anticipation to further discussions taking place this week that are aimed at reducing long-range arms by 50 per cent.

The credit for this obviously goes to Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Reagan. But credit is also due to millions of Canadians and others around the world who continue to press for peace and balanced multilateral nuclear arms reduction.

Three years ago no one would have predicted that any agreement was possible. However, it is interesting to note that when the Government took office three years ago Canada's approach to defence and disarmament changed significantly. That change obviously did not hurt the disarmament process. I personally believe that process was helped when Canada started putting pressure on the United States privately instead of berating it publicly, as was done in the past.

Hopefully very soon more progress will be made in our quest for peace on earth to men and women of good will.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

HEALTH

TOXIC MUSSELS AFFAIR—QUERY WHY MINISTER DID NOT INFORM POPULATION PROMPTLY

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed in detail the answers made yesterday by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I was present in this House when he was trying to explain his action concerning the problem of toxic mussels that poisoned Canadians, and I am appalled.

Mr. Speaker, here are the facts: His department was first notified of poisoning evidence on Wednesday, November 25th. Laboratory animals died on Friday when poisoned by mussels. Mussel shipments have been stopped on Sunday. However, the Minister only issued a public alert on the following Tuesday, almost a week after the existence of a problem was first suspected.