Oral questions

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

DECISION MADE BY UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Minister for International Trade also said yesterday that the decision to impose a tariff on shakes and shingles could not have occurred under the trade deal signed by the Prime Minister. That statement is patently ridiculous. Section 301 of the agreement allows for just such tariffs.

If the Minister for International Trade were to be right, why did he not call upon the Prime Minister to explain why President Reagan did not eliminate that tariff completely from 35 per cent down to zero, when he made his decision this month? Putting the question to the Prime Minister again, does he have a commitment from the President that on January 1 that tariff will be eliminated?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, even the Leader of the Opposition has to concede that the shakes and shingles matter is entirely unconnected to the Free Trade Agreement.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: It occurred in 1986 before there was a free trade agreement executed and signed. The hon. gentleman's question would have a lot more value if he were more supportive of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, and in fact more supportive of a positive policy toward the United States of America rather than campaigning up and down the country, criticizing the United States of America for every conceivable thing he could think of.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I just want to remind the hon. gentleman that I am elected to the Parliament of Canada, not to the Congress of the United States.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PROVISIONS OF CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this action of the President proves what we have been saying all along, namely, that under Article 1902 and Article 1904 of the agreement signed by the Prime Minister, to be implemented by legislation in this House, all the remedies enjoyed by the United States by way of countervail, by way of duty, by way of quota, surtax and all those remedies, are incorporated

into this agreement and are still available to the American industries affected. Therefore, I ask the Minister to come clean and admit that this agreement changed nothing for Canada in terms of our exports to the United States.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to see the Leader of the Opposition ask a British Columbia question for a change. I suppose he is following the precedent that was set yesterday.

With reference to the FTA, had it been in effect the steps taken by the United States to counteract Canada's exports in the shakes and shingles matter could not have been taken. The FTA would have prevented that. In addition, we would have had a different dispute settlement regime in effect and therefore the kinds of actions taken by the President of the United States and the administration could not have occurred.

• (1420)

I do not have time in Question Period to go into all the details as to just what way the results would have been different but, believe me, this shakes and shingles problem would not have arisen in this form under the Free Trade Agreement.

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

NORTHERN TELECOM—QUERY MEASURES GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO TAKE TO AVOID CLOSURE OF AYLMER PLANT

Mr. Gilles Rocheleau (Hull—Aylmer): Mr. Speaker, when the Prime Minister visited the Quebec side of the Ottawa Valley on November 8, he took the opportunity to call me a hypocrite because I had left the Government of Quebec, which was for free trade, and joined the Liberal Party of Canada, of which I am very proud, because it was against free trade.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the Prime Minister that I have always been in favour of freer trade, but not for the Mulroney-Reagan Agreement.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the Hon. Member to put his question now.

Mr. Rocheleau: My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Prime Minister and concerns the Northern Telecom