

*Oral Questions*

government was negotiating instead of being told: "Well no, after it is signed", we could have an intelligent debate on what is in the NAFTA agreement.

Based on the reports today, it seems clear that this government is intent on taking a bad deal, the Canada-U.S. trade deal, and making it worse in the NAFTA deal by reducing our ability to control Canada's petrochemical energy industry, giving the U.S. more access to our energy resources and reducing Canada's ability to effectively conserve and manage our own energy resources.

Mexicans have had the guts to stand up and say: "No, you will not touch our energy resources". Why does Canada back down and why is Canada giving away our energy resources when Mexico refuses to do so?

**Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science):** Mr. Speaker, the North American free trade agreement will not tie Canada's energy resources closer to the United States. That is another misconception being promulgated by the New Democratic Party that never wanted a free trade agreement in the first place because it is afraid of trade.

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

The New Democratic Party is not afraid of trade. We want fair trade. The minister is afraid of giving a real answer and letting Canadians know exactly what is going on in these trade talks.

[*Translation*]

The minister knows the Canadian Constitution gives the provinces control over their natural resources. However, it seems the proposed trilateral agreement would include areas under provincial jurisdiction, including that of provincial power companies.

Before going any further, does the federal government intend to consult the provinces about their provincial power companies?

[*English*]

**Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science):** Mr. Speaker, there have been consultations and discussions with the provinces all through the free trade agreement negotiations. The provinces have met with the Minister for International Trade from time to time and they have

met with the negotiating team from time to time. There is no question at all that the provinces know exactly where we are going and trying to go in this negotiation.

As far as energy is concerned, I do not understand why the New Democratic Party does not want improved opportunities for Canadians, particularly those from the west, to sell exploration production techniques all to do with the petrochemical industry.

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary for the Acting Prime Minister.

It is clear that in the draft that is available, through the news media not through this House of the NAFTA agreements, this government is signing an agreement which appears to extend into areas of provincial jurisdiction, namely to provincially-owned electrical utilities. There is no exemption cited in this chapter for provincial electrical utilities.

I again ask the Acting Prime Minister: Is it this government's intention to encroach on the constitutional right of provinces to control their own resources and utilities, yes or no? Will this government be clear that in fact provinces will have a say in any area that will affect their jurisdiction?

**Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science):** Mr. Speaker, that is why we have been consulting with the provinces right from the beginning, so that we will not do anything outside of the provincial jurisdiction. We want the provinces to be onside with us. We have made special attempts to have them onside with us. There is no question at all that we want an agreement that will be of benefit to all Canadians and of benefit to those provinces that have the resources.

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• (1430)

**ATLANTIC FISHERY**

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

The minister will know that on the great northern peninsula of Newfoundland, and indeed including western Newfoundland, there has been a 67 per cent decline reaching 71,000 metric tons in cod landings over the last seven years and representing the longest and deepest