

Oral Questions

turning down an invitation to such a debate even in his own home town of Steinbach.

The Tories are afraid to debate the NDP in western Canada. They prefer to indulge in the political equivalent of hate literature, perversely insulting western Canadians by claiming that if they are for the NDP they are against the West. Western Canadians know that the Tories have no monopoly on speaking for the West. The CCF was electing western MPs when, as John Diefenbaker used to say, only the game laws protected the Tories. They are on their way to becoming an endangered species once again.

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● (1420)

THE ECONOMY*THE ECONOMIST'S REPORT ON CANADIAN ECONOMY*

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York—Peel): Mr. Speaker, the current issue of *The Economist*, perhaps the most respected financial journal in the world, has bad news for the Liberals and their socialist partners in the House. *The Economist* has given Canada a glowing report card.

The Economist states that "Canada's producers are thriving". Those are its words. "Our output", it says, "is up 6.1 per cent to August this year", better than any other country it reviews. That 6.1 per cent for Canada compares with slightly more than 4 per cent for the United States and Japan, a negative return for West Germany, and less than 2 per cent and 3 per cent for France and Great Britain.

The figures show without a doubt that our Government is on the right economic course, that indeed our policies are working and are good for Canada, and that they are certainly good for Ontario. Freer trade with the United States will make it even better.

I invite Hon. Members to read *The Economist* for this week and to take a look at page 107 for themselves.

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THE ADMINISTRATION*SCHEDULED RELEASE OF PARKER COMMISSION REPORT*

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, the House of Commons and the country have been waiting patiently for a long time for the Parker Commission Report into allegations of conflict of interest against the former Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

The Government has had the final copy for several days, and I understand that it has announced today that it will be made public tomorrow at three o'clock.

I have been told that the usual courtesy will not be extended of giving an advance copy to opposition Parties or to the media. I rise to express the hope that that will not be the case and that the usual courtesy of an advance copy will be extended.

The Government has claimed to introduce civility into the House of Commons. Failure to give advance copies, as is the usual rule, will be a demonstration of hypocrisy on the part of the Government. I hope that it will give the usual advance copies.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE*CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—CURRENT STATUS*

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on October 5 when the Prime Minister tabled in the House of Commons a document purporting to be a trade agreement between the United States and Canada, he said:

I am advised that there may be a minor typographical error in this document, but that the document itself represents the fundamentals of the agreement arrived at by the parties.

Now we learn that that typographical error has become a renegotiation of the trade agreement.

The parliamentary committee studying the so-called agreement has been travelling the country and will be concluding its hearings in the next five days, yet it has been dealing with a document which is nothing but a sham. No wonder the final legal text is delayed when the fundamental deal has not been reached.

Is the Prime Minister going to explain why, if in his view Canada cut such a good deal, he is renegotiating it? Just for once will he level with the Canadian people and tell us what is going on at the current moment in these negotiations?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend refers to the renegotiation of the trade agreement. There is no renegotiation of the trade agreement whatsoever. He asks why we are renegotiating it. We are not renegotiating it.

We are doing precisely what I indicated to the House when I tabled it. Clearly, as would not surprise any reasonable person, there are some approaches on isolated matters or details that may be mutually advantageous and, if required, may be considered by the parties. However, the fundamentals are in place and will remain intact.