

Oral Questions

The Prairie Wheat Pools, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, UPA and other farm organizations have repeatedly called for government action to protect the Wheat Board and other farm marketing boards. To date, the Government has not dealt with this concern.

American interests are continuing to pressure the Canadian Government to dismantle parts of the Wheat Board. Just last week at the GATT talks in Montreal, U.S. trade representative Clayton Yeutter said the U.S. administration will not rest until it gets its way with the Canadian Wheat Board.

The Canadian Wheat Board is vital to the survival of Canadian grain farmers. My colleagues and I will be expecting guarantees for the Wheat Board in the trade legislation to be presented in this House.

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[*Translation*]

INDUSTRY

TRIBUTE TO MULTITEL OF QUÉBEC CITY

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec-Est): Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my first remarks in the House at the beginning of this 34th Parliament should relate to a high technology firm located in my riding.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Quebec City's Multitel is the world's only maker of a data management and acquisition device for back-up battery systems. It has been able to show that a small local business can successfully break through on the markets of such countries as the United States and Europe.

This has been made possible thanks to the co-operation of young and old employees whose experience and modern know-how are a guarantee of the firm's challenging future.

I pay special tribute to Multitel President Léon Méthot, Operations Vice-President Gilles Huot, and all their colleagues who had faith in the future and who live up to the daily challenge brought on by know-how and creativity so that high technology may, for all of us, become a way of life where excellence prevails.

• (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*Translation*]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT— ELECTION COMMITMENTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

During the election campaign, the Prime Minister promised that his trade agreement with the United States would have no effect on our regional development programs, our social programs and our environmental programs, now or in the future.

Will the Prime Minister agree to put these election promises into the law itself? Will he do it in writing in the trade bill which is before this House?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, all these issues have been debated in front of the electorate.

The Leader of the Official Opposition has explained his point of view and the New Democratic Leader explained his position. I have defended the Government's interests; on behalf of the Minister for International Trade and of the Government, I said that the matters raised were not affected by the free trade treaty. I explained the reasons why. The treaty has not changed since then and I think that the Leader of the Official Opposition has every reason to be confident that the matters he raised will be well defended by the Government of Canada.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I could feel more confident if the Prime Minister were prepared to put in writing in the law itself the commitments he made during the election campaign.

[*English*]

UNITED STATES LIST OF CANADIAN PROGRAMS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, four days after the election, namely, on November 25, the United States trade representative issued a 17-page report to the Congress of the United States which lists 40 Canadian programs and administrative practices which the United States claims, according to Mr. Clayton Yeutter, violate the trade agreement. These include Canadian Wheat Board