

Oral Questions

out the pact was 1965, not 1964. The motion was moved by us before safeguards were included—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member has a supplementary question, I believe.

● (1425)

Mr. Broadbent: I know that the facts always bother the Prime Minister, but if he checks the history he will find that out. Will he level with the people of Canada, particularly those in fishing, wood products, agriculture, and many others for whom he cited the Auto Pact as an example? Is he telling Canadians in other sectors that what he is negotiating is trade agreements that have built-in safeguards for Canadian investment, in which case he is not negotiating free trade? Will he come clean and be frank with the people of Canada, just once?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, first, I think I said 1965.

An Hon. Member: Yes, you did.

Mr. Mulroney: Second, it says in *La Presse*:

[Translation]

La Presse:

"The NPD opposition once again put the existence of Mr. Pearson's Liberal minority Government in jeopardy yesterday by moving a motion of censure in connection with the recent Canada-U.S. agreement on the auto industry."

[English]

You were dead set opposed—

Mr. Broadbent: There were no safeguards and the Pact was there.

Mr. Mulroney: You were dead set opposed to the Auto Pact then and now you are hugging it to your breast as though you invented it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: That is wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ACCESS TO U.S. AND CANADIAN MARKETS

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In beginning my question I want to say that one thing is clear. In 1965 it was the Conservatives who clearly opposed the Auto Pact. If the Prime Minister wants to achieve "the same standing in U.S. law" for Canadian companies "as American companies", which means in his words: "a truly level playing field", will he not admit that to achieve this he will have to give exactly the same standing to American companies in Canada? If that is the case, he will have to allow them to buy control of our banks and trust companies, our newspapers and magazines, and dismantle Investment Canada. Why does he want to do that?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I should point out to my hon. friend, although I know it offends his sense of paternity, that FIRA has long since been dismantled. You can be sure of that. There will be no more FIRAs.

With regard to the fundamental point raised, as I indicated to the House of Commons on September 26, as reported at page 7056 of *Hansard*:

Our political sovereignty, our system of social programs, our commitment to fight regional disparities, our unique cultural identity, our special linguistic character—these are the essence of Canada. They are not at issue in these negotiations.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister means what he says, in the words he just used, why did he also say in the same speech that he would "seek national treatment" as well as a "level playing field"? National treatment clearly means treating American companies in Canada the same as Canadian companies, and that means dismantling all our measures of sovereignty that he claims to support. He cannot have it both ways. Why does he not come clean with the Canadian people on this?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that is a pretty laughable suggestion and I know my hon. friend realizes that.

Mr. Tobin: What about the movie you made about yourself: "The Life of Brian"?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mulroney: We set out the parameters on September 26—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, with respect. Interjections should be stopped.

Mr. Mulroney: We indicated that we would engage in these comprehensive bilateral negotiations within certain parameters. This is a trade negotiation. It has nothing to do with our cultural sovereignty in any way, shape or form, as I and the Secretary of State for External Affairs have indicated in many instances. We will pursue the negotiations in a mature way, being very vigilant of Canada's interests, in the belief that the unemployment rate in Canada must be reduced and can only be reduced through a growing economy which grows through an expanded international trading capacity. That is why we want to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the nation. It is to provide jobs through expanded trade.

AUTO PACT DEBATE

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister. Does he not recognize that on May 10, 1964, when the New Democratic