

table has grown worse. This is why I want to convey to the Minister the message of thousands of Canadians who feel that the Government is taking the wrong approach. What I want to tell the Minister is this: Wait a minute, you are taking chances! And I want to ask the Minister to direct Canada Post forthwith to negotiate in good faith, not under the sword of Damocles of scabs, but to negotiate in good faith, without confrontation so as to reach a negotiated settlement. It is the only way to ensure mail delivery.

[English]

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that of course Canada Post should negotiate in good faith; so should CUPW. Both parties should be negotiating, trying to seek a solution to the dispute without resorting to a strike.

Nobody wants a strike. It is absurd to suggest that anybody wants a strike. It is also absurd to suggest that one should acquiesce in the face of violence. It is absurd to suggest that something went wrong with the system in terms of the previous LCUC negotiations, because a negotiated settlement resulted which was satisfactory to both sides. Those who engaged in violence are facing charges before the courts, and properly so.

I think we would be doing the public a favour if we counselled non-violence to everybody—obey the law—and in the meantime tried to reach a negotiated settlement without a strike.

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## TRADE

### CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—AUTO PACT

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Southam Press reports government officials as ready to change the Auto Pact, despite the Industry Minister telling Canadian auto workers and producers just a week and a half ago that the pact was not even on the table.

This looks to me like a desperate last minute effort to pull out a free trade deal which will save the Prime Minister's face—

**Mr. Speaker:** I ask Hon. Members to be careful in their preambles to be setting the fact pattern for a question, not just making an announcement, no matter how interesting that announcement might be. The Hon. Member will put his question.

**Mr. Langdon:** I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your interest.

Why is the Prime Minister prepared to trade away this pact which has benefited so many workers across the country?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it is not at all the intention of the Government to

trade away the Auto Pact. It was the Government of Canada which negotiated the Auto Pact itself—the federal Government, 22 years ago—and the NDP was quite strongly opposed to the Auto Pact at that time.

Had we followed the protectionist advice of the NDP and the United Auto Workers at that time, there would have been no Auto Pact which has brought such benefits to Canada and to Ontario.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** The premise of the Hon. Member's question is quite false and totally misleading. I have already responded to the Leader of the Opposition with regard to automotive issues as raised at the First Ministers' Conference.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHY GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO DESTROY AUTO PACT

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Why is the Prime Minister willing to destroy the Auto Pact, which has created jobs in so many communities? Why is he willing to do so?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the premise of the question was false in English and it is also false in French.

[English]

MARKETING OF POTASH—INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION IN SASKATCHEWAN

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle—Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister for International Trade I should like to direct my question to the Parliamentary Secretary.

In view of the legislation being enacted in the Province of Saskatchewan on control of potash marketing, has the federal Government given consideration to the constitutional and legal implications of this legislation, particularly in respect of trade?

If so, would the Parliamentary Secretary be willing to make a statement in the House?

● (1450)

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Hon. Member that the federal Government supports Saskatchewan's right to act in the interests within its own jurisdiction. As we know in Canada, the Saskatchewan Government is responsible for the natural resources of the province.

The people of Saskatchewan are being hammered right now, not only on potash but on uranium and subsidized wheat. We share their outrage at the unwarranted attacks by the Americans on trade. Our Government will continue to support their fight in any way we can.