

*Oral Questions***POLITICAL PARTIES**CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION
OF LIBERAL PARTY

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, the question persists as to whether or not the Liberal Party can be trusted in its opposition to the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. It took the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. Turner) a couple of years to make up his mind on the agreement. He was then going to tear it up. Now he is going to renegotiate it. He is now playing to high-powered Liberals in Québec. We have Gerald Regan taking Donald Macdonald's place in heading up the lobby group which is promoting the free trade agreement. We have other Liberal Senators who are in favour of the agreement.

When the Leader of the Opposition said he did not want the Senate to deal with it, what he did not want to be exposed was that he could not muster a majority in the Senate to oppose this agreement. Now we see the shameful act of the Senate actually approving this agreement in principle.

Any Canadian who is against this agreement has only one Party to vote for, and that is the NDP.

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[Translation]

SENIOR CITIZENS

TRIBUTE TO ACTIVE RETIREES

Mr. Claude Lanthier (LaSalle): Mr. Speaker, our senior citizens find active retirement increasingly attractive. Dynamic Canadian retirees represent a major social group which exerts considerable influence in Canada generally and in LaSalle—Émard in particular.

The innate and confirmed wisdom of these robust workers of yesteryears who have chosen either to start new careers or devote their time to more humanitarian than profit-making activities remains a national wealth which the Government will have to take into account from now on when developing its policies.

I want to say how impressed and grateful we all are to these fine people who have already done so much for our society and who have now chosen to dedicate their time and efforts to improving the lot of their less fortunate fellow citizens and this, in the interest of the many generations which will follow us in this great country Canada!

• (1420)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

THE ENVIRONMENT

TREATMENT OF SEWAGE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. On May 4, 1987, his Environment Minister said that eight million Canadians live in cities that do not treat their sewage. He added, and I quote, "They now expect the federal Government to help them out. The federal Government has no intention to revive purification projects that will cost hundreds of billions of dollars. The answer is no."

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, during the recent provincial election in Nova Scotia and the by-election in Lac-Saint-Jean, the Government announced such projects. Can the Prime Minister tell us why his Government is dealing with this issue on an *ad hoc* policy basis? Why are all Canadian cities not treated the same way, regardless of how they vote or of whether provincial elections or federal by-elections are being held?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that I have just heard, albeit by implication, a new position taken by the Liberal Leader. Is he telling us today that he is against the measures taken to clean up Halifax harbour?

[English]

If the new position of the Liberal Party is that it is opposed to the Halifax Harbour clean-up—that is what he said—then this is going to be bad news for the Liberal Party, I think, in Nova Scotia.

[Translation]

We did everything we had to with respect to cleaning up Halifax harbour in a timely way and according to appropriate objective criteria. We also applied the same criteria for cleaning up the St. Lawrence. We have taken other initiatives in the area of environmental protection, Mr. Speaker, and we will do more to protect the environment. We have acted quickly in a host of areas to protect Canada's environment, be it in South Moresby, British Columbia, or in cleaning up the St. Lawrence or Halifax harbour. And if the Liberal Leader is against these projects, let him say so today!

[English]

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I think the cynicism of the Prime Minister is absolutely disgusting.

MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURES

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this Party has been on record, in responding to the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, for a one-