

Oral Questions

In 1980 the PQ government introduced a payroll tax in Quebec. In its last budget the federal government made it clear that it would no longer allow companies to deduct provincial capital and payroll taxes from their federal income tax.

My question is this: Today, in view of the state of the economy in this country, is the Minister of Finance prepared to reverse this decision for the benefit of companies in Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba?

Hon. Gilles Loiseau (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member is no doubt aware, we took advantage of a meeting with the *Conseil du patronat* on Monday this week to discuss the matter.

We understand the concerns of Quebecers, Ontarians, and other Canadians in this respect. I can inform the hon. member that my colleague, the Minister of Finance, is reviewing this question and that he may have some news for us when he meets with his provincial counterparts.

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• (1500)

[English]

TRADE

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister for International Trade.

Recently the Eddy Match Company of Canada had two truckloads of commercial matches stopped by American customs at Buffalo because the made-in-Canada logo was not located underneath each commercial name on each package of matches and in the same size lettering as the commercial message itself.

What a lot of balderdash. Why did the government not insist on having this silly regulation changed instead of walking away from it before signing a free trade agreement at any price and thereby putting many Canadian industries and jobs in jeopardy?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, I do not know anything about the particular case, but I will certainly take it up with our department and get back to the hon. member.

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, this non-tariff barrier is a blatant act of bad faith in the U.S. in light of the free trade agreement. For several Canadian industries this has become an irritant which was not a problem before.

What is the government going to do now to correct this horrendous non-tariff U.S. customs regulation which this government willingly, if not irresponsibly, adopted when it signed the free trade agreement?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, I am not at all sure that this has to do with the free trade agreement. If it is particularly a problem with respect to printing, we will take it up with the department concerned and I will get back to the hon. member.

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[Translation]

AIR CANADA

Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. On the weekend we heard in connection with Air Canada that the Minister of Transport, who has special responsibility for the Montreal area, had no intention of stopping the wholesale transfer of skilled jobs from Montreal to Toronto. Will the minister stop washing his hands of the matter and start saving the few jobs left at Air Canada in Montreal?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, my answer to the hon. member for Longueuil is that he should not start false rumours. There are absolutely no plans for Air Canada to move any part of its headquarters out of Montreal.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: That concludes Question Period.

I have a ruling that I must give at this time and I have two points of order which I will deal with in a moment.

An hon. member: Questions of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: An hon. member thinks they are questions of privilege. I will speak to the hon. member in a moment, but in the meantime I have a draft ruling which ought to be given.