

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

ACTIVITIES OF SPOUSES OF PERSONNEL

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, the Associate Defence Minister says that politicians can campaign on military bases but spouses of military personnel are forbidden to campaign for better living conditions. The contradiction in his position is obvious. The spouse of a member of the Armed Forces could campaign for better living conditions if that spouse were a candidate for the Conservative Party. But God help that spouse if he or she starts a petition for a new stop sign without the nomination of a political Party. That kind of activity is taboo.

One can just see the Minister campaigning on an Armed Forces base during the next election. He could make a brilliant speech before a packed house, but the audience would be forbidden to applaud. He could go canvassing door-to-door, but if a base resident asked him about improved living conditions he would have to report this breach of political neutrality to the base commander. The Minister will have to re-think his position. It is an unjustifiable attempt to create two classes of Canadians with two different sets of rights.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE NEGOTIATIONS—POSITION OF LIBERAL PARTY

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy—Royal): Mr. Speaker, if Canadians are confused about the Liberal Party's position on enhanced trade negotiations, don't be too upset. It would appear that the Liberal Party President is equally confused. And if Iona, a primary spokesman for the Party, is confused, imagine the chaos going on in the minds of the Liberal caucus.

So, Iona, you say that your Party supports freer trade but doesn't like the way the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is handling the issue. The question seems to be, how do you feel enhanced trade should be negotiated? You say that the talks should not be bilateral but multilateral as well as sectoral. No, wait. You changed your mind and said that it should not be done sector by sector. Gosh, Iona, that's confusing!

However, what does appear to be crystal clear is that your Atlantic Liberal policy session was a three-day rhetoric-spewing, government-bashing jamboree, unfettered by any need to formulate constructive alternatives to a situation you condemn as unacceptable. And, Iona, for the benefit of those Liberals who justifiably feel somewhat in the dark, just how do you think the negotiations should be handled?

Oral Questions

NUCLEAR ENERGY

AVAILABILITY OF URANIUM RESOURCES

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, the uranium resources appraisal group of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has recently made available its latest assessment of supply and requirements. Its report contains good news for those interested in Canada's energy future. For the next 10 years Canadian demand of some 2,000 metric tonnes of uranium per annum can easily be met from an established supply of about 12,000 tonnes per annum. The balance will generate considerable export earnings.

Low cost Athabaskan Basin producers assure Canada's competitiveness in the years to come. Canadians can be justifiably proud of their \$1 billion a year sales uranium industry.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF BELGIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL TRADE

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I draw Hon. Members' attention to the presence in the gallery of Mr. Étienne Knoop, Belgian Secretary of State for External Trade.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Over the weekend there were a number of additional revelations which add further confusion to the Government's position on trade. In one of the Prime Minister's patented verbal backward somersaults he said that he now really wants to have a series of Auto Pacts.

The Auto Pact is not free trade but a managed trade system with safeguards and guarantees on both sides. Has the Government now abandoned its strategy for a comprehensive free trade agreement? Is it now instead pursuing a series of individual sectoral managed free trade agreements like the Auto Pact? Have we told the Americans this news?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the answer to that is no.