

As to his latest remarks, Mr. Speaker, over the weekend when we were in fact accused of lying, I wish my colleague would rise in the House and deal with that just so I might respond. I can tell him that more than 220 projects valued at \$240 million have been approved since June 1987. Now let anyone tell me that the Department of Regional Economic Development is dead.

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• (1510)

[English]

### TRADE

#### CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—EFFECT ON ONTARIO INDUSTRIES

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. Is the Minister aware of a DRIE report which states that free trade will cost the jobs of ordinary Canadians in Ontario in the areas of automotives, tires, automotive parts, major appliances, construction and material handling, industrial electrical equipment, electrical wire, textiles, wine, beer, household furniture, toys and games, motion pictures, sound recordings and publishing—the list goes on—and that the effects will be worse in southwestern Ontario? If the Minister is aware of this report why has she not informed the people of Ontario and the Members of the House of the severe implications of free trade for Ontario?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister responsible for the Department has answered that question. I have not read the report. It has no official status with the Government.

I have read the reports of the Economic Council of Canada, Informetrica, and the University of Toronto, all of which have indicated that the benefits to Canada from a free trade pact with the U.S. by far outweigh the problems we face with increased protectionism down there. The people who will benefit the most will be the people of southwestern Ontario.

#### ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE'S REPORT

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister will see the following as benefits. Has she read the report of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture which states that farm cash receipts in Ontario will decline by 50 per cent: \$170 million for dairy farmers; \$127 million for poultry and egg farmers; \$45 million for fruit and vegetable growers; and \$24 million for grain and oilseed producers, for a total loss of \$500 million? Does that not say to the Minister that it is about time to stop the lunacy of the free trade negotiations?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I think the House can take into account that in the

### Oral Questions

final two months of the free trade negotiations there will be rumours, election speeches, leaks, innuendoes, and just plain mischief of the kind we have just heard from the Hon. Member. I do not intend to comment on that kind of loose allegation at a time when we are in crucial negotiations.

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### GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

#### TRAVEL UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who is probably off travelling some place, my question is for the Prime Minister. It concerns government waste. Does the Prime Minister approve of the behaviour of his Minister of Energy who went to Washington and Vienna in September, Cannes in October, Washington and Caracas in November, California in January, Switzerland in February, Bogota in April, and he spent \$13,000 going to Paris in the month of May of 1987? Does the Prime Minister approve of that type of expenditure? If not, what is he going to do about it?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is aware I am sure that the Minister is obligated to travel in his capacity as Chairman of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Energy Agency which he has chaired. He met with the International Atomic Energy Agency after the Chernobyl disaster. He has travelled extensively to defend Canada's multilateral and bilateral interests, particularly with respect to the very volatile petroleum market.

I am sure that the Hon. Member would want our Minister to take an active interest in world energy affairs. I think he has done so with a great deal of competence and leadership. I think that the Hon. Member should be complimenting the Minister rather than hurling cheap shots across the floor at him.

#### PAYMENT OF EX-MINISTER'S LEGAL FEES

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, my question also relates to government waste and in particular to the Government's legal aid program for ex-cabinet Ministers. Last month Canadians were outraged to learn that the taxpayers of Canada are paying a total of \$650,000 in legal fees for the former Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. That relates to \$7,831 per sitting day. How can the Prime Minister justify this outrageous decision of his Government, this rip-off at taxpayers' expense? Can he indicate whether this means that the Government of Canada will be paying the legal fees of the ex-Minister, the Hon. Member for Saint-Jean?