

Oral questions

I want to let all Canadians know that the Free Trade Agreement will bring us new opportunities, new jobs, and a new and better future in Canada.

* * *

TAXATION**CORPORATE TAX SYSTEM**

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina—Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, the Government has once again seriously misled the Canadian people. Last year the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) promised tax fairness under his tax reform. He promised that average Canadians would get a tax break and corporate taxes would be increased. Figures released by his Department last week show the opposite has occurred.

Since April of this year individuals' share of the tax burden has increased 11 per cent to \$26.8 billion while corporate income tax revenues had actually decreased by 10 per cent to \$4.7 billion. So much for tax fairness and the closing of corporate loopholes!

Before the Minister attempts to reduce his deficit, let me advise him to look at his corporate friends and the tax rip-offs right under his nose. Canadians will not stand for paying more taxes while rich and large corporations take advantage of a rotten tax system.

* * *

CANALS**WELLAND CANAL—OPPOSITION TO SUGGESTED SALE OF CANAL LANDS**

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorald): Mr. Speaker, the Welland Canal Parkway Commission came into being in the early 1980s to develop the use of the old Welland Canal proper and the lands adjacent to the water itself.

Over the years a succession of board members, led by Mr. Willard Wright, the first Canal Commission Chairman, and Mr. Andy Carse, the present Chairman, strove to carry out this mandate.

It has been brought to my attention that the commission members will receive a report in the very near future that suggests that the canal lands, should be sold to developers so that condominiums and/or apartments

can be built. Further, it is suggested that these developers be sold this land right down to the water's edge.

I am categorically opposed to the sale of even as much as one square foot of the canal lands, and I respectfully advise the House that I will be keeping surveillance on these developments and will be keeping my constituents fully informed of any attempts to sell these lands.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

TRADE**UNITED STATES TARIFF ON CANADIAN SHAKES AND SHINGLES**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday, in the very first Question Period of this new Parliament, as reported at page 37 of *Hansard*, the Minister for International Trade said that it was "a great pity", using his words, that President Reagan was not advised to do away with the red cedar shakes and shingles tariff. Why did the Prime Minister not advise President Reagan directly to do away with that tariff?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. President—Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Copps: Mr. President, that is right.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Here we go.

Mr. Crosbie: Of course that is French for Mr. Speaker.

The Prime Minister and other members of the Government made vigorous representations to the United States authorities, including by letter to Mr. Yeutter and to the President himself. We made strong representations in connection with the shakes and shingles issue, as did our Ambassador in Washington, as one would expect. Of course, there was some small improvement made in connection with that matter by the President.

Mr. Speaker: The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): "Yes sir, Mr. President!"