

Oral Questions

If the Government wants to regain the confidence of Canadians it must get its priorities straight and eliminate the log-jams in Cabinet.

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[Translation]

SCIENCE

IMPORTANCE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ACFAS AT
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House a very important event that is taking place this week in the riding of Ottawa—Vanier. I am referring to the annual conference of the *Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences* being held at the University of Ottawa. This science conference is important to ensure the continued existence of the French language as a living force in the world of science. We all know how important English is as a language of work and communications in this area. We must promote the use of French in science. For instance, only 5 per cent of the articles published by the National Research Council in 13 scientific journals are in French. This must change. ACFAS, at conferences like the one being held this week, has shown it is possible to do high quality scientific work in French. I want to congratulate and pay tribute to all francophone researchers and wish them a cordial welcome and a pleasant stay with us in Ottawa—Vanier.

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[English]

EMPLOYMENT

CREATION OF JOBS IN ATLANTIC CANADA—PRIME MINISTER'S
STATEMENT

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer to an answer the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) gave yesterday in response to a question posed by the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon). He was taking credit for jobs created in Canada and said the Hon. Member's statement was false. He went on to say:

Some 46 per cent of the jobs created were in Ontario, 28 per cent in Quebec, 22 per cent in western Canada, and so on.

Mr. Speaker, the "and so on" is Atlantic Canada. The three regions that he referred to add up to 96 per cent of the jobs. "And so on" only got 4 per cent of the jobs. If the Prime Minister is going to continue to ignore Atlantic Canada I wish he would at least admit that and make mention of it in his answers to questions in the House.

• (1120)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—AMERICAN
INVESTMENT IN CANADIAN INDUSTRY

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister. For the past three days I have been trying to obtain an answer from the Government as to who was speaking on its behalf with regard to the wide open request made by the United States for American takeovers of Canadian industry.

Simon Reisman, our chief negotiator, is quoted as saying, and I am going to use his words, "—the U.S. side has made it very clear at every level, Presidential, Secretary to Secretary, and at the negotiating table, that they are anxious to talk about investment in the broadest sense". Those are his words as reported in a story filed by Terry Wills of the *Montreal Gazette* of May 21.

Yet the Minister for International Trade said yesterday that that simply was not true. In response to me yesterday in the House of Commons the Prime Minister said, yes, the President had raised the issue with him, then no, the issue had not been raised with him, all within two answers as recorded in *Hansard*.

Has the Prime Minister briefed the Minister for International Trade on what the President of the United States had to say to him on the issue of American takeover of Canadian industry and opening up the investment rules? If so, would he explain to the House who is speaking on behalf of the Government?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition made a false charge in the House yesterday when he used the word "unfettered". He had the grace to correct that false charge. He has now made another false charge with regard to the statements of the Prime Minister reported in yesterday's *Hansard*. I hope he will have the grace to withdraw that false charge.

I hope also, Mr. Speaker, that in the interest of ensuring that this House is able to deal with facts, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues will deal with facts and will not try to create fears or enter falsehoods into the record of the House of Commons.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the words which I have just quoted from Simon Reisman are accurate and also that *Hansard* bears out the ambiguity of the Prime Minister's responses to me yesterday. I will leave that to every Member of the House to judge.