

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. The same minister that he is referring to, namely, the Minister for International Trade, did not hesitate to use the list that he has just referred to, prepared by his officials, in the House on June 20 when he talked and boasted about jobs that had been created by Alcan Aluminium, Cargill, Novacor Chemicals, and others.

He did not mention, as he could have, other companies on the same list that had shut down operations and were putting new investments in the U.S. In short, it was a very selective report from the list to the House of Commons.

The minister has refused and the Deputy Prime Minister didn't answer. What I asked for was a list. I have a copy of the list that the minister himself was using. I want the minister to acknowledge now that when the Minister for International Trade last June was quoting from it he was doing it on a very selective basis by giving only good news and not providing the bad news. When is this government going to be honest and direct with the people of Canada about what is going on in this country?

• (1130)

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to listen to the leader of the New Democratic Party talk about selectivity because if anybody preaches bad news around this country it is the leader of the New Democratic Party who selects very carefully some cases.

I can give the hon. leader some cases in my community where plants have rationalized and closed down because of the free trade agreement, but I can also give examples of plants that have opened up in my community because of the free trade agreement.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Do it!

**Mr. McDermid:** As a matter of fact, I just opened a plant the other day in Etobicoke, called Kodak Canada, a brand new chemical plant for recycled plastic bottles, and I can tell you it is there because of the free trade agreement. It didn't move to the United States.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, the minister just revealed what we want. We want the government to produce the studies. He has accused us of providing bad news. What we ask for is an honest objective assessment with the pluses and negatives. That is what we want from the government.

The minister of trade promised on the twentieth that the government would be monitoring. According to some, about 57,000 jobs have been lost because of the trade deal. Since the people of Canada have a right to know, will the minister now produce the list, the copy of which I have, and any other documentation that the government has so that the people of Canada can understand in an honest and clear way what is happening with this deal. We just want the truth from this government.

**Mr. McDermid:** This government is very straight forward. If he is honest with the house, the hon. member will know that during the free trade debate discussions took place regarding rationalization of industries and so on. There are pluses and minuses and we said that at the time. He has to admit that. He has just said yes, so he admits that. There were pluses and minuses. The hon. member stands up in the House and preaches minuses every day.

I can tell the hon. member that the proof is in the pudding. There have been 158,000 new jobs created this year already. That is a plus. That shows that the free trade agreement is working.

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**PRESENCE IN GALLERY**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I wish to draw to the members' attention the presence in the gallery of Her Royal Highness Infanta Cristina of Spain.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, on August 15, 1984, during the election campaign in Kingston, Ontario, the Prime Minister, then the Leader of the Opposition, said this: "If the Canadian people see fit to give us their trust we will always give them ours." He went on: "That means an end to the obsession with secrecy."