

things as rosy in the future. Yes, we see things much rosier in the future with the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. All the hon. gentleman can see is the rosy crucifixion. We see the rosy future.

Northern Telecom is one of the foremost companies in the technological future of Canada and it has had to make some adjustments. That has no connection whatsoever with the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. The facts are that American Telephone and Telegraph, the largest company in the world in that business, is making the same kinds of adjustments. It is laying off more people in the U.S., double the number, than they are laying off here in Canada. It has no connection with the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement whatsoever.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, the very plant which the Minister suggested last week, as an answer to this problem, was expanding, has in fact given pre-notice of lay-offs to 757 of its 4,500 person workforce.

Given that, does the Minister not finally realize it is important, necessary, even crucial that he get up and give a signal to Canadian workers that they are going to be protected and defended by his otherwise weak-kneed Government?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member can get on with his fictitious cries of gloom and doom every day but the facts are here. I will give this estimate of the Economic Council of Canada again. It says over ten years the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement is likely to create 439,000 jobs and there may be 187,000 jobs lost over the ten-year period, for a net gain of 251,000 jobs.

The hon. gentleman, getting up in the House and pretending that every close-down and lay-off in this country over the following months is due to the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, is making an attempt to fool and cod the Canadian people, and they will not be fooled and coddled, as they showed on November 21.

Oral Questions

TOURISM

EXTENT OF CANADA'S ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism. My constituency of Sarnia—Lambton is diligently working to promote our area as an attractive tourist destination. As well, the Minister knows I have a great interest in tourism nationally.

As the Minister also knows, concern has been voiced by the industry that our Government's commitment and the direction provided to Tourism Canada's advertising campaign may be insufficient to allow effective competition with other countries such as Australia.

Could the Minister offer his assurance that this situation will be closely examined by his Department and every effort will be made to examine the many fine suggestions put forward by TIAC just this last month?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism) and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Mr. Speaker, this is the first Government to have undertaken a strategic marketing campaign of Canadian tourism products in the U.S. and abroad. Since 1985 we have increased and enhanced our budget for marketing Canada overseas and in the U.S., with impressive results. We intend to continue that thrust.

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TRADE

SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORT TAX—CANADA-UNITED STATES MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. This House was advised last week of the disastrous effect the 15 per cent export tax is having on sawmills and sawmill workers, not only in northern Ontario but in other lumber producing provinces. Article 9 of the Memorandum of Understanding which imposes the 15 per cent tax states that either Government may terminate the Understanding at any time upon 30 days written notice.

Is the Prime Minister prepared to take the necessary steps to save the jobs of the Canadian lumber industry, and make a commitment to meet with representatives of