

When it came to culture the government also said that culture was not on the table. When it did not give away culture through the front door, it seems clear from recent reports that this government facilitated getting it through the back door.

I want to ask the minister, in the case of water exports is the government's policy to facilitate water exports? If it is not, what is the government's response to the section of the draft proposal that proposes non-energy pipelines? Are these pipelines for bottled water? Are these pipelines for orange juice or in fact, is this government looking at pipelines through the back door to transport Canadian water in large quantities to the United States?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, let me caution my hon. friend about pulling things out of a text that is two months old.

What I said in my first answer is the position of the Government of Canada and the policy of the Government of Canada that governs the export of water. Water in bottles is allowed to be exported. Water in large amounts and particularly diversions, is not allowed to be exported.

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, to the Deputy Prime Minister, while the government has said during previous trade talks that it would protect auto workers through trade deals, it did not; it would protect forestry workers, it did not; it would protect Canada's culture, it was not protected.

Therefore, I want to say it is clear on every account and evidenced by the fact that the government has not put forward any impact studies on either of the trade deals, that these trade deals have failed.

Will his government stand up for Canadians for once, act in the interests of Canadians and stop the talks on the Mexican trade deal? If not, stand aside and call an election on the issue.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend is talking about industries that have not been protected. She knows that what she has said is not true.

Oral Questions

She spoke about the automotive industry. The auto pact is still in place. She knows perfectly well that culture is protected under the free trade agreement. In forestry she is worried about the softwood lumber issue. She knows perfectly well that is subject to the memorandum of understanding which was not part of the free trade agreement.

I listened to my hon. friend from British Columbia, the trade critic for the New Democratic Party. He said he asked the previous minister on many occasions whether there was any company that had invested in Canada as a result of the free trade agreement. This was on television last night. He knows. He has heard my predecessor as well as me, read off the names of companies that have been investing in Canada as a result of the free trade agreement, companies that have benefited. Let me read them—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Willowdale.

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PRINTING INDUSTRY

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, printing is Canada's fourth largest industrial employer. Since free trade, U.S. customs harassment based on country of origin markings has cost our printers \$160 million in lost exports and 1,700 jobs. Canada's printers cannot wait for a North American free trade deal, they need action now.

I ask this minister, will this government act immediately to toughen Canada's customs enforcement regime against American printers? Will it act now to give Canadian printers a level playing field?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to take that matter up with my colleague, the Minister of National Revenue.

My hon. friend is aware that this is an issue that we have been looking at and there may well be ways that we can enforce our customs requirements in a more aggressive fashion. But one of the things that we have to be conscious of here is that customs requirements work both ways. There are a number of our printing companies that are endeavouring to get into the United States as well.