

Income Tax

party does want to ride to power, but not on anyone's back—just on their own hard work and the things they have tried to do as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition since 1963. We do not want to creep on our bellies across the floor of this House to get into power, or to go on our hands and knees to the Prime Minister to get into power. When we get into power it will be when the electorate vote us in. We will not be going any other way. It takes gall for the hon. minister to say that the Conservatives are attempting to ride to power on the backs of the Mounties.

He should not speak too much of these matters. He has done very well for himself by leaving his background and tradition of the last 20 years and crossing the floor. We will ride to power if the electorate will support us; otherwise we will carry on as we have done for the last 20 years. Had the hon. member for Halifax taken power several years ago, we would not be in the sorry state we are in now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: One thing that is wrong, Mr. Speaker, is that I never have enough time to speak in this House. Maybe hon. members will agree unanimously that I may continue. The Tokyo round of trade negotiations is continuing. I am the critic of the official opposition for the industry, trade and commerce portfolio. Knowing that I will receive decent treatment from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, I wrote to him on October 25 saying that the government of Newfoundland had submitted a brief to the Canadian trade and tariff commission dealing with questions that the province felt were important to raise at the negotiations in Geneva. I asked if I could have a copy of the brief, or if he would ask the Newfoundland government to let me have a copy, as I am interested in their position. I do not think it is marked "Top Secret"—surely the RCMP have not stamped this one "Confidential". It would not be breaching the "Featherbed" file to let me have a copy of the brief. I said I would appreciate it if he would send me a copy, and I went on to say:

With respect to the whole issue of these negotiations, do you intend to brief the opposition critics with reference to these negotiations, the position to be taken by Canada, the state of the negotiations and our prospects? I understand that you are briefing the various provincial governments and interested industries and it therefore seems to me that the same kind of information should be made available to the opposition parties so we will know exactly what is happening in this area which is of such great importance for Canada and the various provinces.

I have not received an answer to the simple request that I be allowed to see a copy of the brief of the government of Newfoundland. Are we to be briefed on these negotiations which affect everyone in Canada? The minister is just as slack as the slackest of his slack colleagues—and he has only been over there since September. He was in opposition for 19 years prior to that, so you would think he would be right on his toes and would reply within a day, giving full co-operation. Somebody should ride on his back, Mr. Speaker. Let me quote from the *Globe and Mail* of November 5 under the heading "GATT Talks off to Slow Start with Late Lists":

[Mr. Crosbie.]

● (1632)

—most countries, including Canada, missing the designated day for tabling lists of barriers to agricultural trade—

The United States tabled their list. This is dated November 5. The United States tabled their list on time, identifying the cuts that they want made. Let me quote:

The Canadian list is wending its way through the federal government—

God help it if it is wending its way through that wearisome, weird mass—because it will never come out. The report says it—

—could be tabled as soon as next week.

That is very optimistic. It goes on to state:

Canada's agricultural exports totalled \$3.96 billion in 1976.

Why is our list not being tabled at Geneva? What is the minister up to? Incidentally, when is he going to carry out his promises to Alberta? When is he going to get entry for Alberta petrochemical products into the United States, as well as their agricultural products? That is what Premier Lougheed wants. Perhaps, then, Premier Lougheed will loosen up on the gas—not the type we get from hon. gentleman opposite, but the real gas that you can light a match to: that useful gas. Perhaps he will loosen up on the gas and we will be able to export more gas to the U.S. When is something going to be done there?

Here is the minister from Alberta whose brother is the deputy premier of that province. I do not know whether they still speak. I suppose they still speak to one another. He has been in office now, as the minister, for the last three months. Why did that gentleman, who was in the cabinet at the time—the hon. member for Crowfoot—allow this agreement to be signed with the United States in respect of a pipeline, that great pipeline from Alaska down through Canada to the U.S., without Canada receiving some trade concessions at the time? Where was this great, big, tall Texan-type Albertan when that signing was taking place? Why was he not sticking up for Premier Lougheed and his government of Alberta to get these concessions when that agreement was signed?

I hope I am not being offensive to the hon. gentleman. If I said of someone in this House, "I shall see Otto Lang tarred and feathered and driven out of Saskatchewan. I will pay for the oil and I will pluck the chickens," as the minister said as reported in *Hansard* in 1974, I am sure I would be asked to retract it. I wonder if the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) has asked the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to retract that since he got into the cabinet. He was going to see the Minister of Transport tarred, feathered and driven out of Saskatchewan. He was the man who accused the Prime Minister of being "diabolical"—and I take "diabolical" to be something not favourable to the person to whom you apply it. And if I were to say that as well as "putting the "torch of tyranny" to Canada, I would hardly expect to find myself in the same cabinet with that gentleman. That was said only on January 7, 1976, by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

I will not go into the rest of the things he said about the Prime Minister then, such as there being similarities between Prime Minister Trudeau and the Nazi dictator, Adolph Hitler,