

FREE TRADE

QUÉBEC'S PERSPECTIVE

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, in a few days, Liberals and Socialists will be dithering away against free trade during the election campaign. They will be dithering away against the Province of Quebec, and I would like to remind them of the official position taken by Quebec. The Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement has been analysed from the Quebec perspective, and here is the conclusion. The analysis looks at the main points of the agreement from a Quebec perspective. This is not a macroeconomic analysis or a sectorial study of the impact of the agreement on each industry. Some people feel it is too technical. Others think it is not detailed enough. To me, the important thing is that we can conclude from an analysis of the text of the agreement that the document signed on January 2, 1988 by the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) and the President of the United States, Mr. Ronald Reagan, is definitely a step forward for Quebec, according to the Minister of External Trade and Technological Development, Mr. Pierre MacDonald.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCESITUATION OF CERTAIN OLDER WORKERS—REQUEST THAT
MINISTER OF STATE INTERVENE

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, this morning at eleven o'clock, members of the *Association des retraités sans assurance-chômage* occupied the office of the Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) (Mrs. Vézina), and they are still there. Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State and Member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Bouchard) promised during his campaign that he would deal with the problems of 2, 000 older workers across the country who are being penalized on unemployment insurance. The Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) had led them to believe that she, as the Minister, could solve their problems. Recently she did an about-face when she said it could not be done.

Mr. Speaker, as we draw nearer to an election, Canadians and especially older Canadians remember how the Prime Minister lied to them. Older workers will remember that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. McDougall) deceived them. Canadians who are ill will remember the tax on drugs . . . I would urge the Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) to correct the injustice being done to older workers.

S. O. 21

● (1415)

[English]

TRADE

CANADIAN THERMOS PRODUCTS—EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, Canadian Thermos Products is one of the oldest industries in Scarborough, but in August of this year Canadian Thermos entered a new era. It is now producing for the United States market all its thermos glass vacuum bottles, coffee carafes and workers' lunch kits. This has meant an increase in the workforce of about 60 per cent.

One of the factors is the anticipation of free trade. It is argued that when free trade comes and the 9 per cent tariff is eliminated, this company will have an even greater share of market possibilities around the world.

Something that leads to the closing of a U.S. plant and the expansion of a Canadian plant cannot be all bad.

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NATIONAL DEFENCEPROPOSED ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES—
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, Canadians oppose the Government's planned purchase of nuclear submarines for many reasons such as the cost to our social programs, but not the least of the reasons is the effect on the environment, yet the Government never had any environmental impact studies done before making the decision and the Government has recently reaffirmed that.

When I raised the question in the House previously, the Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Dick) came up with the astonishing reply that because nuclear wastes can be put in a swimming pool for storage, and there is no bigger swimming pool than the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, obviously it would be just fine to spew out the radio-active wastes into our oceans as a means of disposal.

This is a contemptible approach to the environment. I hope that Canadians will see through this. I hope when they look at this Government's record on the environment and think particularly about the effect of the nuclear submarine decision on the environment, they will see that this Government does not deserve to be supported. They will see through the Government's attempt to use the environment for public relations purposes.