

*Oral Questions*

The Liberals are not going to negotiate just with the United States, but with all countries. Then we discover later on today in another statement the hon. gentleman says that a Liberal Government would not seek unilateral free trade agreements.

● (1425)

## EAST COAST FISHING INDUSTRY

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Just to correct the Minister again, the legislation specifically reads “The President is authorized”—“not we would like”—he is authorized to enter into these negotiations.

Further, we had received assurances in this House that the whole question of the protection of the East Coast fishery would be established. Yet under this agreement, Section 305, the United States Government clearly takes on the power to undertake retaliatory action against any effort by Canada to apply control on unprocessed fish.

**Some Hon. Members:** Read it properly.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Canada will no longer be able to provide for the processing of fish without retaliation from the United States. Do you call that free trade, Mr. Minister? You have just given away the whole East Coast fishing industry. Why are you allowing that to happen?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, luckily some Canadians are looking on so they can see the kind of spectacle we see every day in this House. The Hon. Member is raising unfounded fear. We protected the East Coast fishing industry, and in the U.S. legislation—

**Mr. Axworthy:** You better read the document.

**Mr. Crosbie:** They can outshout me, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** You can't read.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Bring your colouring book next time.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Minister has the floor.

**Mr. Crosbie:** As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman didn't refer to any specific language in any clause to back up his point about the East Coast fishery. He completely ignored the fact that one section that did affect Canada in the proposed legislation has been completely removed, and that is the section having to do with lobsters and the size of lobsters. That has been taken out and removed from the final version of the U.S. legislation. The hon. gentleman does not mention that. He gets up and tries to mislead the House and the Canadian people about a clause to which he doesn't refer. It is a scurrilous performance, but it is his usual performance.

[*Translation*]

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—  
GUARANTEES—NEED FOR GENERAL ELECTION

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. The

main objective of the talks with the United States was to give Canadian products secure access to American markets. We on this side of the House have said that the talks between Canada and the United States and the agreement that was before the House failed to meet this objective.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan announced when he tabled his bill—that is what it says in the documents that accompanied the bill—that U.S. anti-dumping laws would continue to apply and that the Americans would continue to enforce other U.S. protectionist laws with respect to Canadian products. Unless the Prime Minister doesn't believe what President Reagan says, unless what comes out of the White House . . . this is no reporter, this is not some third-rate flunky, this is the President of the United States who has clearly set forth in a document the facts that I just mentioned . . . I want to ask the Prime Minister this: What is the purpose, what are the reasons for implementing an agreement that doesn't even guarantee the basic conditions for these negotiations? So why not call an election so that Canadians can pass judgement on the stories the Prime Minister has told us?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member from Montreal says that the Government failed to obtain access to the coveted U.S. market, and that is his complaint. However, Mr. Speaker, the Premier of Quebec, the Hon. Robert Bourassa, says the exact opposite, namely that Canada and Quebec, as a result of the free trade agreement, have secured an historic and unique access for Quebec's and Canada's products, and that is one of the reasons why Mr. Bourassa and practically all businessmen and economic and social partners in Quebec are in favour of the free trade agreement.

## CREDIBILITY OF UNITED STATES PRESIDENT AND OF CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister of Canada can tell us his version of the story, but there is no agreement if the Americans disagree, and the President of the United States says so clearly in the document he tabled in the U.S. Congress.

And another thing: we were promised secure access, and we do not have it. We were told that elements of our cultural policy were not in the agreement, and they are, according to statements by the U.S. President. We were told that the Auto Pact was not on the table, but the Americans, through their President, tell us that it is. And furthermore, farmers are now . . . Mr. Speaker we have been . . . The U.S. President . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!