

Senator Murray: You did not always feel that way about it.

● (1410)

Senator McElman: It had another publisher at that time, Senator Murray, with whom both of us were acquainted.

I quote Simon Reisman. He said:

I shouldn't be trying to speak for the political people, (but)—

And then he went on, of course, to speak for the political people.

—I think the prime minister intends to put this agreement through the Parliament of Canada expeditiously and then go to the people. My advice is get the agreement in place and then go to the people.

That is a highly debatable intervention; it is given in a partisan fashion and has nothing to do with the man's role as a trade ambassador for Canada. So I simply ask: Has somebody made an attempt—it would probably be futile—to put a leash on the man and keep him out of the political arena?

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, I think, first, that it is incorrect to characterize that advice as partisan.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh!

Senator Perrault: Come on!

Senator Murray: What could be more normal than that an ambassador who has negotiated an historic Free Trade Agreement with the United States would want to see that agreement ratified by Parliament and implemented as expeditiously as possible? What could be more normal than his wanting to see that happen during the mandate of the present government? It does not seem to me to be correct to describe that as partisan advice. On the contrary, I would have thought that honourable senators and others would be pleased with the candour with which Ambassador Reisman is sharing with the general public his advice to the Prime Minister.

Senator McElman: Although I will not try to put too fine a point upon it, I suggest to the Leader of the Government in the Senate that his views have changed immensely since he was in New Brunswick acting as an adviser to the government.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

Hon. Azellus Denis: Honourable senators, may I ask the government leader why so many millions of dollars are spent in publicity that tries to show the advantages of this agreement while not one cent is spent in trying to show the disadvantages of it?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, Canada has a \$200 billion trading relationship with the United States. It seems to me that a very small amount of money is being spent—and not in a partisan way—to sell the deal.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh!

Senator Murray: First, the honourable senator can look at the purposes for which money has already been spent in this regard. It has been spent, for example, to print the Elements of the Agreement, a document which was tabled in this place and in the other place; money was also spent in distributing it across the country. To suggest that the campaign is going to take on a partisan cast is surely to anticipate a publicity campaign that is not yet launched. This is not a case of television commercials showing the flight of Canada geese.

[Translation]

Senator Denis: Is he admitting that the harm done by one does not undo the harm done by the other?

[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

GOVERNMENT TREATMENT OF POLITICAL OR PARTISAN STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: Honourable senators, I have one or two questions for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. Does he wish to address to other members of the Public Service the advice that he gives regarding Ambassador Reisman? Is an intervention delivered in a political or partisan way by a public servant permissible only if it praises the government, or, as in the case of the president of the Public Service Alliance, is such an intervention considered to be out of line—as it was by the Prime Minister, at least—when it attacks the government?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, it must be obvious to all that Ambassador Reisman is *sui generis*.

Senator Gigantès: He certainly is some sort of national resource.

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: Honourable senators, I have received documents which have been distributed by the office that Mr. Crosbie has now taken over. These documents, referring to information that is impartial, purport to give an independent view of what has been said in the media. However, in the whole of the documents there is no mention of the criticisms made by the *Toronto Star*—not one of the criticisms appears. In none of the documents have they quoted what Mr. McCain has been saying in *Maclean's* about the food processing industry—and this is not the first time he has said these things.

I would like to ask the Leader of the Government if he insists that the documents that have been produced are impartial and fair. I would like him to say that on the record. I will then bring the documents in tomorrow.