

Oral Questions

People's reactions have been very positive. In fact, I am especially pleased to have a chance to correct the false allegations being made by the Opposition with respect to free trade. When the issues are properly explained, people quickly understand the advantages of this free trade agreement. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will do likewise and that the Opposition will finally stop its political rhetoric and tell the truth about this historic project we have undertaken here in Canada.

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● (1415)

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, today I stand to defend those elected officials and other individuals who are being attacked by the Government. In its desperate attempt to sell the Conservative trade deal the Government and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) have been attacking their opponents and fanning regional animosities.

In 1984 the Prime Minister came to power preaching national reconciliation. We now see him fueling the flames of regional hatred. The Prime Minister has accused those who are against his trade deal of being against the economic well-being of the less fortunate economic regions of the country.

When questions were raised in the House of Commons about the Auditor General's Report and regional development grants being issued to the West Edmonton Mall, the questioners were accused of being against the economic interests of western Canada.

Accusations such as this made by the Prime Minister and by his cohorts are entirely unfounded. The Prime Minister speaks out against people from Ontario. His Ministers attack personally the Premiers of those provinces which oppose his deal. Where is the civility that we used to hear about? Where has national reconciliation disappeared?

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION OF NDP LEADER

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, as the debate on free trade continues I believe many Canadians must find it passing strange that the gurus of doom and gloom, people such as the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent) and

Bob White, have an atrocious record of forecasting job losses or new job creation.

They were against the Auto Pact when it was signed. The Auto Pact has brought unprecedented wealth and job creation to Ontario. It has created jobs in other regions.

The NDP Leader was against the privatization of de Havilland whose prospects have never looked better. Over 1,000 jobs have been added since its sale.

When the Finance Minister announced his new directions for Canada in November of 1984 the Leader of the NDP predicted the loss of thousands of jobs.

You know, Mr. Speaker, over almost 1 million jobs have been created.

A recent quote from an article stated this:

Oshawa drops right off the unemployment map. The healthy job situation in Oshawa may prove somewhat embarrassing to the federal NDP Leader Ed Broadbent who represents the city. The present situation makes it tough for him to persuade his constituents that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney didn't live up to his "jobs, jobs, jobs" election promise.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FISHERIES

CANADA-FRANCE DISPUTE—ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON—REPORTED DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH NAVAL VESSELS

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The news service *Agence France Presse* has reported that France has decided for the first time in history to deploy full-time French naval vessels on patrol off the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon to "establish a military presence in French waters".

According to the report the French naval vessel *La Centaure* will be the first to patrol the waters off St. Pierre and Miquelon from December 3 to January 13. This vessel will be followed by additional vessels of the French navy after it returns to France.

● (1420)

In light of the breakdown of the Canada-France fish talks, and in light of the Minister of Transport's commitment in this House on October 29 when he stated:

—if they go fishing one iota, one jot, one tittle outside the disputed zone, we will arrest their vessels just as we arrest the vessels of other countries.

In light of those facts, does the Government now consider the deployment of the French naval vessel *La Centaure* as an act of provocation? If so, what is the Government going to do about it?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, France has a perfect right, as the Hon. Member