

sovereign to sovereign basis, attempting to conclude what we believe is an important international initiative in trade.

The statement made by my hon. friend is quite wrong. There were many other discussions and communications over the weekend from the United States of America, no doubt inspired, for example, by a sentiment expressed by the spokesman for the President of the United States, Mr. Fitzwater, who said that the President is very anxious that those negotiations continue and hopefully reach a conclusion. It is because of that view that initiatives were undertaken by the Government of the United States which allowed the Government of Canada to meet with the Americans at this time. We believe it is very much in the national interest to attempt this kind of meeting and I hope my hon. friend will ultimately agree.

[Translation]

#### INQUIRY WHO SUGGESTED MEETING IN WASHINGTON

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, uncertainty still prevails in connection with the free trade discussions. Can the Prime Minister simply say who suggested holding this meeting in Washington today? The Canadians or the Americans?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I already answered this question barely a few minutes ago. I went to the trouble of recalling the statements made last week by various Ministers, and in answer to a question from my friend the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor I just pointed out that there have been rather constant communications throughout the weekend. The Canadian Government has not changed its mind and came to the conclusion that President Reagan's attitude was serious enough to justify holding a meeting today. It seems quite normal to me that we should take this kind of approach.

[English]

#### INFORMATION RECEIVED BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I note that the Prime Minister has still not directly told us who made the suggestion, who suggested the initiative and who took that initiative. Since the Prime Minister has talked about it in his earlier answers, I would like to ask him precisely what information reached the Canadian Government which was so striking, so much of a change, that it led to a reversal of the very strong negative position Mr. Reisman had expressed with respect to the United States' letter which had been sent on Saturday. What information was that?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have already responded fully to that question. Now my hon. friend asks, in light of the information I have already provided the House, precisely what information reached the Canadian Government. If I provided him with that specific information, I would be as bad a negotiator as he obviously is.

### Oral Questions

#### UNITED STATES POSITION

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, in fact it would give the Prime Minister a last chance to take Canadians into the confidence of the Government and to explain what is taking place in these negotiations. Since so much else has changed this weekend, I would ask the Prime Minister if he will make it clear once again that the Government will not start up negotiations once more unless the Americans indicate point blank and beforehand that there will be concessions made on their side, not on our side.

• (1430)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I know my hon. friend would not ask anyone to take him seriously when he talks about an absence of consultation and says we have not taken people into our confidence. He is nodding in support of his own statement.

I wrote down where he requested an opportunity to be taken into our confidence. In point of fact, the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville specifically asked for a confidential briefing on this matter. The Government responded that we were ready to take the NDP fully into our confidence and the NDP turned us down because they do not want to know the truth.

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### CORPORATE AFFAIRS

#### INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN MEMOTEC STOCK ISSUE

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. On February 12 the Minister informed the House that his Department had started an investigation into alleged irregularities in the Memotec stock issue. Seven and a half months have passed. In the meantime the Quebec Securities Commission decided to do something. That is very important, but does the Minister not think it would be time to let us in on the results of his inquiry?

Are we to expect a report soon? Is the work nearing completion? When are we going to have a report and, when it is completed, will the Minister table it in the House of Commons?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Director has indeed been conducting an investigation under the Canada Business Corporations Act in co-operation with the Quebec Securities Commission and the Ontario Securities Commission. In view of the fact charges were laid by the QSC, I asked him this morning to expedite the investigation and bring it to a completion as soon as possible. I asked my Deputy Minister to ensure that the Director has all the necessary resources. Yes, indeed, I am