

*Oral Questions*

before a major public American audience the determination of the Government to have action on acid rain.

[Translation]

## REQUEST FOR SIGNING OF TREATY

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is not very good at arguing his case.

The Prime Minister's handling of the acid rain issue was a complete disaster. He wasted his time helping the United States get away with a few vague promises about research.

Now he is approaching the end of his term, as is President Reagan, the Prime Minister says he will be satisfied with no less than a definite reduction in the sources of acid rain in the United States.

If the Prime Minister is serious, and this applies to the Minister as well, will he insist that before their next meeting in Washington next month, the Canadian Government draft the text of a treaty designed to put an end to acid rain, to be signed by the Prime Minister and President Reagan at their meeting next month?

• (1420)

[English]

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the Leader of the Opposition has been asleep for the last two or three years, but certainly for the last several months I have made very clear here on the floor of the House of Commons, and elsewhere before Canadian audiences and American audiences alike, the fact that the Canadian Government has put on paper the makings of a treaty which our officials at the most senior level have been negotiating with American officials, both in Washington and in Ottawa.

The very thing that the Leader of the Opposition calls for with such forced grandiloquence is that which we have already done, a far cry from what the Liberal Party of Canada did when it was in office. The predecessor of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition would not raise the acid rain issue in Ottawa or anywhere else in Canada, let alone in Washington.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, after three and a half years that kind of answer does not wash any longer, particularly from a sleep-walking Minister of the Environment.

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## TRADE

## CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—UNITED STATES OMNIBUS TRADE BILL

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has not only been out-negotiated

on acid rain but he has been out-negotiated on trade. As the Prime Minister was praising his own trade deal last night in New York City, he failed to mention that a unanimous report of the House of Commons Committee on Trade, including every Conservative member of that committee, insisted that unless there were to be a specific exemption in the omnibus Trade Bill currently before the Congress of the United States in favour of Canada, the Prime Minister should scrap the deal.

At the very time the Prime Minister was speaking in New York last night, Sam Gibbons, the head of the House of Representatives' Trade Committee, said that Canada would not be given an exemption from the U.S. omnibus Trade Bill. My question then is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister or to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Does the Government have information contrary to that demonstrated by Congressman Gibbons last night?

If Canada receives no exemption in the omnibus Trade Bill, is the Government prepared to withdraw from the trade arrangement with the United States?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I know that the Right Hon. Member would not knowingly mislead the House on this issue, but he knows that that is not what Sam Gibbons, the head of the House of Representatives' committee, said. He said that there was no need for an exemption because there was no threat to Canada in the Trade Bill.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** No further questions!

## CANADIAN AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO U.S. CONGRESSMAN

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister who just responded. If the Minister is in fact now endorsing the comment made by Congressman Gibbons that there is no threat, I would ask if she is prepared to table a response which I presume was received to a letter Ambassador Gotlieb sent to Congressman Gibbons and others outlining 33 specific measures in the omnibus Trade Bill which Canada felt was objectionable. The Minister's answer clearly indicated that they have now been satisfied on all 33 of those measures. I would like the Minister to table that and to give us the assurance that all 33 major problems raised by the Canadian Ambassador with the Congressman have now been satisfied and will not be included in the omnibus Trade Bill.

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should be aware that the Trade Bill has not yet been presented in the United States and therefore we do not know what it contains. It is perfectly true that our Ambassador has been making representations to the Americans to ensure that there are not elements in the Trade Bill that would cause problems for us. I am happy to report to the House that we know that, so far during the process, many elements have been dropped from the Trade Bill.