

*Oral Questions*

Third, in respect to New Brunswick, the member is right, we have been dealing with New Brunswick a long time and remain open with New Brunswick to see if we can conclude a deal on Candu III.

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**ENERGY**

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister for International Trade.

Yesterday, as the minister will know, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources threw Canada's strategic energy industry wide open to American ownership and control. At the time, the parliamentary secretary to the energy minister said that this had "nothing at all to do with" the North American free trade agreement.

This government gave up one of Canada's last levers of control over our own energy industry and got nothing in return for this astounding sell out. What else does the government plan to give away in the great Canadian fire sale; softwood lumber, water, medicare, the north?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, how about the member for Edmonton East?

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**An hon. member:** They wouldn't take him.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I responded to that question yesterday, but I will do so again.

The decision that was announced by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources yesterday is related to the specific condition of the energy industry in Canada which I think my hon. friend is well aware of. If he is not, he should be. The rules that have been in place have resulted in an evaluation of assets in the hands of Canadian firms that is less than the evaluation of assets in the hands of other firms. This is to put the oil and gas industry on the same basis as other industries, such as the manufacturing sector.

My hon. friend, if he was in the House yesterday, would have heard me comment on the relationship between this and the NAFTA. In my judgment there is

no relationship here. It would not have resulted in any negotiating leverage, as is suggested by my friend.

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**TRADE**

**Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (York North):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade.

In reference to the FTA adjustment programs, the Prime Minister said: "We shall ensure that innovative and generous adjustment and retraining programs will be introduced whenever required".

With Canada now on the verge of an important trade deal with the United States of America and Mexico, is the minister willing to immediately introduce to this House the adjustment programs which were promised during the last federal election campaign?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend I am sure will realize that flowing from the Prime Minister's comments there is a commission headed by Jean de Grandpré which was designed to review the adjustment programs of the Government of Canada and make recommendations. That commission had representatives of business and labour on it. One of the key recommendations was to increase the amount of training programs to make it easier for individuals to move from one occupation to another.

As I said in response to his colleague, that has been done. We have increased that amount by \$750 million. It would have come into place faster except his party held up the legislation for one full year.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will come to the hon. member in a moment. There may be several points of order. I know the hon. House leader of the Official Opposition wishes to raise a matter and I will hear him and I will hear the hon. member for York South—Weston.

I have to announce as follows. Since today is the final allotted day for the supply period ending March 26, 1992, the House will go through the usual procedures to consider and dispose of supply bills.

In view of recent practices, do hon. members agree that these bills be distributed now?