

completion of the negotiations for a comprehensive free trade agreement between us and the United States.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT PROCESS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I will pose another question to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Government uses its own trade negotiators to leak information on a selective basis. It is also mounting a massive glitzy publicity campaign costing taxpayers \$12 million to sell whatever it is the Prime Minister is trying to sell to the country.

Instead of wasting millions and millions of dollars, will the Prime Minister not tell us what the Canadian Government has already given away in its negotiations with the United States, and what type of approval process it has in mind with respect to the provinces?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised at the Right Hon. Member's question. I think he is aware and would agree that this is a very important issue upon which we place a great deal of importance, as do the Premiers of the provinces. The level of consultation and the co-operation which existed with the provinces during the course of discussions on the comprehensive trade arrangement with the United States are really unprecedented in Canadian history. He should recognize that. Nothing has been given away.

If the Member is interested in more of the details, he will certainly have an opportunity to hear them in full scale when we debate this issue next Monday. We will certainly be interested in the position of his Party and in how many positions it has.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, all this Parliament has gotten from the Prime Minister in a year and a half of these negotiations is a 15-minute speech on generalities.

Some Hon. Members: That's right!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Parliament is always the last to know what is happening in the free trade negotiations.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Foster: Shame.

PRIME MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PREMIERS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister is going to be frank with the provincial Premiers this evening, will the Deputy Prime

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Minister give an undertaking that he will tell us what propositions he is making to the provincial Premiers? Will the Prime Minister be stating clearly in the House of Commons what is on the table, what is not on the table, and what the approval process is? Will the Deputy Prime Minister give us the undertaking that the Prime Minister will be here to face the House?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister has already pointed out that these matters will be fully debated on Monday. We are all waiting to find out which of the many positions of the Liberal Party will actually be presented, and whether the Leader of the Official Opposition will even take part.

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[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, I would like to stay on the subject of federal-provincial relations, and in the absence of the Prime Minister, perhaps the Deputy Prime Minister could answer my question.

During the past fifteen months, the Government of Quebec initiated a number of meetings with the provinces to discuss the constitutional question and approval by Quebec of the Constitution Act, 1982.

At the last meeting held here in Ottawa, attended by senior officials, representatives of the federal government were also present. I therefore would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister to inform the House and Canadians what the federal Government's position was, as expressed by its officials, at this meeting.

● (1425)

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, of course those discussions are continuing. With respect to the Government, the Hon. Leader of the Senate is leading these discussions, and those negotiations will continue. I am not sure whether the Hon. Member is trying to drag the constitutional position of the Quebec Government into the trade debate, but it is quite clear that the Prime Minister spoke very succinctly when he said on February 17 that on matters of international treaties and negotiations of this nature, the Government of Canada and the Parliament of Canada will speak on matters of such a nature which fall within federal jurisdiction.