

organizations and those companies that are presently in business.

We are very pleased with the progress that Mexico is making. In fact, the Government of Canada has assisted in the enforcement of some of the environment regulations that Mexico is enforcing.

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, the problem is very clearly one of enforcement and the description of the state in Mexico as expressed by the minister is simply not in conformity with the facts. Let me ask another question which speaks to the public's right to know the state of mind of this particular government.

The minister has promised an environmental review of the deal. Will the terms of reference of that review call for the enforcement of common environmental standards? Second, will it call for the enforcement of common workplace health and safety standards? Finally, will it call for a clear transition program in which new exports from Mexico to Canada will be geared to the achievement of those standards?

Hon. Pauline Browes (Minister of State (Environment)): Mr. Speaker, the North American free trade agreement is being negotiated as we sit here today.

It is being negotiated on those trade principles. In a parallel accord, the environmental principles are being negotiated. Of course, the North American free trade agreement is subject to an environmental review in total.

I think that the hon. member should be very clear on the concern that is expressed by our government and by Canadians, of the importance of this issue. Indeed, we are looking after those.

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

The United Nations Conference on Economic Development in Brazil this June must produce tough new international agreements to save the world for future generations.

It is now or never, but the government knows that the United States is deliberately blocking progress on global action. I ask the Deputy Prime Minister: Can Canadians have the assurance of the government that the Prime Minister will personally persuade his good friend, the President of the United States, to change his position on

global warming, energy use and other urgent, environmental problems?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to say that the member of the opposition appreciates the value of the Prime Minister's close relationship with the President of the United States.

This is not what we usually hear from the opposition benches. I can assure the hon. member that the Prime Minister will use his influence with all world leaders to try to get them to support the objectives of the UNCED conference he will be attending in Rio de Janeiro.

His special effort is going to be directed at the overfishing question and getting support for our resolution on the right of coastal states with respect to straddling stocks. I will pass on to him the hon. member's advice as well.

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, my question is again for the Deputy Prime Minister who is here in the House to speak for the Prime Minister.

Unfortunately, the minister's answer shows a failure to understand the crucial importance of Brazil and the crucial importance of the Americans' negative, destructive position on international agreements.

Does the Prime Minister not know and does the government not know that the international community is counting on Canada to bring the United States to its senses and to the table?

I ask again: Will he give Canadians the assurance that the Prime Minister treats the participation of the United States, the positions it has taken with the utmost urgency? Will he persuade the President of the United States to be at the table to take a reasonable position?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): The Prime Minister of this country is in charge and gives direction with respect to the policies and approaches of this country.

He will naturally be urging the President of the United States and other leaders who attend at Rio de Janeiro to support the causes that we are supporting in connection with UNCED.