

Oral Questions

thinking about it. He may actually do something, but they want to know when he is going to do something.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLIES—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL
COMMITMENT

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, the Minister talks about the provincial Governments. The provincial Governments have already made a commitment of \$28.5 million for emergency water supplies. Is the Minister prepared to stand in his place this afternoon and give a similar commitment of \$28.5 million for emergency water supplies for the herds in these two provinces? Is he willing to do that?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, all of the requests that have been put to us by the provincial Governments to date have been met within the PFRA budget. I do not know why the Hon. Member gets so excited because when I talk to people in western Canada they simply look at our record, and look at yours which provides no satisfaction or comfort at all. When they look at our record they know very well that we were there in 1984, in 1985, and we will be there tomorrow.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Foster: You are not doing anything and you know it.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—
PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. I am holding a set of questions and answers on the subject of free trade which has been circulated to all Conservative Members of Parliament.

● (1440)

The first question which is set out asks why has the federal Government taken the decision to impinge on the domains of competence of the provincial governments with its legislation with respect to the free trade accord.

Some Hon. Members: Read the answer!

Mr. Langdon: The answer, since they want to hear it, is that Article 103 of the agreement obliges the American and Canadian Governments to take these measures and impose them on both states, provincial and local.

In view of the fact that these questions clearly indicate that the Conservative Party, and this Conservative Government, have made a decision to take these steps against the provincial

powers in our country, why will the Minister not in fact stand up in the House and frankly admit it?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, apparently, from what the Member says, he has some suggested questions the Opposition might ask, and suggested answers. When these kinds of exercises are being done, the person drafting the questions puts himself into the mind-set of the Opposition.

Mr. Broadbent: What about the answer?

Mr. Crosbie: Then he knows he has to think of something that is twisting, that is false, that is malicious, that is devious—

Mr. Broadbent: Answer the question.

Mr. Crosbie: Then he puts the question and he asks how this is impinging, because that is the kind of question the hon. gentleman opposite asks day after day after day. So I congratulate the drafter. He has himself exactly in the mind-set of the hon. gentleman opposite and his paranoia that has existed here every day of the week.

Mr. Broadbent: What about the answer?

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, the intemperate and irrelevant response of the Minister shows how out of touch he is.

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: I think it might be observed that if we are going to get very many Members up, some of the rhetoric will have to be dropped on both sides. The Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor will put his question.

Mr. Langdon: I suggest, Mr. Speaker, the Minister start—

Some Hon. Members: Sit down!

[Translation]

POWERS OF PROVINCES—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): I would like to put this question to the Minister, considering the answer provided in his Conservative notes. The answer indicates that the agreement obliges the U.S. and Canadian governments to take all measures that are necessary for the provisions of the agreement to come into effect.

Considering his answer, why won't the Minister admit to the House that we are telling the truth and that the Government has decided to impinge on provincial powers across this country?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I notice the question is almost identical to the question that was asked in English.

The Chair's concern is very straightforward. This is certainly not customary practice in the House, and I would like all Members to be careful and refrain from repeating a