

ments to our economic performance directly related to the free trade agreement.

There are any number, and I can spend some time going through these with my friend, such as Heron Cable, Union Carbide, Xerox, Proctor & Gamble, "duty elimination as a result of the free trade agreement had an important influence on the company's decision to expand operations in Belleville". We see the impact of free trade being characterized by additional growth for Proctor & Gamble.

I have a number of these success stories as a result of the free trade agreement, and I would be very happy to share them with my hon. friend.

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, Canadians will not soon forget the words of this minister who created a made-in-Canada recession when he said: "You gotta die before you go to heaven". Thousands of Canadians are dying right now.

For the Prime Minister to put him in charge of trade policy is like asking the pyromaniac to guard the fire hall.

[Translation]

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

**Ms. Copps:** Yesterday, in the Throne Speech, the Government was blowing its own horn, saying that the Free Trade Agreement helped protect our economy. This is an insult to the 1.5 million Canadians presently unemployed and to the 360,000 people whose jobs have been eliminated since the start of the Free Trade Agreement. Here is my question to the Prime Minister; When is he going to acknowledge that this agreement is hurting the Canadian economy? When is he going to admit that the Free Trade Agreement is contributing to unemployment in Canada?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I remind my friend again of those broad economic numbers that I talked about in my first answer to her.

Let me go back to some of these individual companies: Xerox Canada. The president of Xerox said that because of free trade, Xerox had invested in the Toronto area from which they would sell world wide, and that free

trade would provide Xerox Canada with more of an opportunity to be competitive. Kodak (Canada) said that this major production transfer to Canada was made possible by accelerated tariff elimination under the free trade agreement.

A smaller retailer, Northern Reflections, was allowed to expand into the United States in order to take advantage of reduced tariffs under the free trade agreement. That is precisely the impact of the free trade agreement, to help companies expand here in Canada. That is precisely why we feel we can move forward with confidence to look at a negotiation with Mexico and the United States to broaden that free trade area, to gain more job opportunities, more opportunities to expand world wide from bases in Canada.

\* \* \*

## THE ECONOMY

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Yesterday this government put forward in its throne speech its vision of the future. What it forgot to say was that since 1984, Canadians are finding it increasingly hard to make ends meet, that because of this government's failed economic policies and the Canada—U.S. trade deal, over 260,000 Canadians have lost their jobs. It failed to say that the GST is devastating small business and eroding consumer confidence. And what did it offer Canadians yesterday? More of the same: expand the trade deal, continue policies like the GST.

What did it say to the 1.5 million unemployed in this country? Wait until the next century and you might get a job.

When is the Prime Minister going to direct his ministers to show some real initiative, some real creativeness and get Canadians back working so we can create a Canada that Canadians want to belong to?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the only way that this could be done, and it is a little less dramatic perhaps than what would be suggested by my hon. friend, is to continue the downward trend in interest rates, by keeping government spending down, by reducing the deficit, by trying to get that burden of debt down, to bring about investment with which we can create the necessary jobs.