

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Roy MacLaren (Etobicoke North):** The minister's apology to the House is stimulating but hardly illuminating.

The Leader of the Opposition has drawn our attention to the contradiction between Canada's position with regard to energy in the bilateral free trade agreement, and Mexico's position with regard to energy in a trilateral agreement.

Let me address a further question to the minister. There is a contradiction, surely, in the fact that the United States government has rejected a recent decision of a binational panel in Canada's favour. That casts serious doubts on the effectiveness of the trade disputes mechanism in the agreement.

Will the government take the opportunity of the upcoming Canada-Mexico-U.S. negotiations to remedy such flaws in the bilateral agreement?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** I do not believe the matter to which the member alludes is a flaw in an agreement. In our opinion, the United States has launched an extraordinary challenge with respect to the matter of a pork countervail in violation of the spirit and the intent of the free trade agreement. We are not responsible for the actions of the United States. We hope that the judges who were appointed in this extraordinary challenge will deal with that in a very convincing manner.

• (1430)

It does not matter what provisions you have in an agreement. Two sides have to administer it and it may be interpreted and administered differently in different places.

It does not matter what provision we have in the U.S.-Canada-Mexico agreement, there will doubtless be differences about interpretation and different approaches in the two areas.

I am not gainsaying the fact that we believe that in this particular case the United States has acted in a way that is contrary to the intent and meaning of the agreement, but we realize we are in a very sensitive position right now with respect to obtaining authority from Congress for a fast-track approach to other negotiations.

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. We have had the Canada-U.S. trade deal now for a little over two

years. What we do know is that Canadians have lost over 260,000 jobs in this country.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Ms. McLaughlin:** We do know, and Canadians increasingly know, that the Canada-U.S. trade deal has been a bad deal for Canadians—

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

**Ms. McLaughlin:** —and that now this government is determined to make a bad deal worse by entering into the tri-level negotiations with Mexico.

My question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. We believe that there should be fair trade. We believe that there should be expanded international trade. When will this government come in with a policy for fair international trade that will serve the interests of Canadian workers, and also international workers?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party says that there should be expanded trade, but she is against every effort to expand trade. She is against the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement which will expand trade. She is against the U.S.-Canada-Mexico negotiations which might, or may, or can possibly expand trade. She is very equivocal about the Uruguay Round, and she cites the loss of 250,000 jobs, which is against all the evidence.

I will just refer to one study. Peat Marwick shows Canadian firms investing \$30 at home for every dollar spent on foreign mergers and acquisitions last year as compared to the situation before the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement. In other words we have given confidence to our own people to invest in Canada. I can quote the boss of Proctor and Gamble who says: "We have become substantially more efficient in the last two years and clearly we now have more jobs in our Canadian plants than we would have had without the agreement". That is Proctor and Gamble.

I could go on indefinitely, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the Minister for International Trade. The Minister for International Trade can go on and cite how good the trade deal has been for multinational corporations, but maybe he should talk to Canadians who have lost their jobs in plants that will not open again.