

*Oral Questions*

With such low salaries, one ninth of ours, the Mexicans can threaten jobs in Canada, as the minister knows better than anyone.

I therefore ask the government to tell us what guarantees Canada will demand in this area and how the government will try to put them in the parallel accords?

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the hon. member that salaries have been lower in Mexico for many years and I do not see Canada invaded by Mexican products. The products on our markets come from high-wage countries like those of the European Community, especially Germany, and the United States. The problem he raises is not a real one in that an economy with such low wages is weak. Through trade, we must help them develop their economy. They are building an infrastructure of roads, hospitals and communications facilities and that is what we can sell them. The free trade agreement will give us access to that market.

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, we see clearly once again that the government is trying to use empty rhetoric to hide the reality that is hitting us. The reality is that Canadian and foreign investors will be attracted to invest and manufacture in Mexico where salaries are one ninth of ours. I think that this government owes it to Canadians and Quebecers to tell us what it will do to protect these jobs. I ask the minister to tell us why he is not making the commitment to submit his objectives in negotiating these parallel accords to public consultation with the provincial governments.

[English]

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister for Science and Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, we should listen to what some Europeans are saying about this particular arrangement. The NAFTA agreement, according to recent European studies, should open new markets in Mexico for Canadian-based companies, but also new markets in Canada for Mexican-based companies.

• (1445)

They point out, and I quote from *The Financial Post*, February 17: "Productivity in Mexico is one-tenth lower

than it is in Canada in most industries. It can take up to 200 workers to produce what 20 in Canada can do. Mexico's labour turnover was much higher, education levels lower, the work ethic poor. It isn't easy to produce there efficiently". This is a European speaking.

It is probably not fair to say that is true with all Mexican labour, but our productivity is higher. This is why they are looking at Canada.

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**IMMIGRATION**

**Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Canadians resent being taken advantage of by those few visitors, refugees or landed immigrants who come to Canada and then commit serious crimes here.

Can the minister tell the House and all Canadians that criminals convicted of a serious offence, such as drug trafficking, upon serving their sentence will immediately, in fact on the same day, be deported to their country of origin regardless of the possible consequences in that country?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, we have introduced and passed in this House and it has now become law, amendments to the Immigration Act. Those measures were intended to protect Canadian citizens against individuals whose admission would be contrary to the best interest of this country.

The amendments relating for example to criminality and security allow us to effectively turn back or deport rapidly individuals who clearly pose a threat to our communities, but who have no record of criminal conviction. We now have a law that expands the inadmissibility provisions in the area of criminality and threats to national security.

I think that when these are implemented they will greatly improve the security of Canadians.

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**TELESAT**

**Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications.