

Oral Questions

tance to Canadian companies to become more competitive.

My hon. friend asks about the interprovincial trade barriers. As far as I am concerned I would like to see those dealt with right away, but they are barriers that are established by the provinces. We have taken the initiative as the federal government in pushing the process along. We have set a timetable. We have set specific elements in the timetable, and we are committed to reaching that objective at the earliest date possible but no later than 1995.

But it is up to the provinces to make the changes in their legislation because it is their legislation which is imposing the barriers.

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Etobicoke North): Mr. Speaker, it is not sufficient for this government to forgo its responsibility for interprovincial trade barriers. It knows it can provide leadership and it lamentably failed to do so yesterday.

It is not only in that area it failed to act. There was no immediate commitment at the conference yesterday to adjustment assistance or to job retraining.

Can the minister explain what retraining and adjustment programs the government plans to offer in the event of a North American free trade agreement? How will they be strengthened and co-ordinated with the provinces? What is this government doing?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the hon. member is talking about when he says that we did not provide leadership.

The federal government is calling the meetings. The federal government is establishing the timetable. We set the objective of 1995. We are forcing the issue. If my hon. friend has any other ideas as to how we can provide more leadership than that, let him say so, but let us just forget the loose rhetoric.

As far as his particular question on adjustment, there was a discussion at the meeting yesterday on adjustment, as I understand, and there is an agreement on the part of the provinces and the federal government to look at the

over 400 programs of adjustment provided by the federal and provincial governments.

As far as the federal government is concerned, we have made some significant movements in increasing the level of training as a result of Bill C-21, which his side delayed for a full year. That is increasing the amount of funding for training by \$750 million. That is a major contribution to helping people train and retrain in response to the changing economic circumstances.

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NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister of energy.

The Atomic Energy Commission has been negotiating for many months now for the prototype development of the CANDU III reactor and the establishment of a centre for nuclear excellence in Canada to manufacture and market that reactor around the world.

Most of those negotiations for years have been going on with New Brunswick and suddenly last year a deal was struck with Saskatchewan. That province has withdrawn and I read in the Canadian press earlier this week that a deal is now being negotiated with Alberta.

I would like to ask the minister how many suitors are in line for this development. What is the status of the matter at this time?

• (1500)

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, first of all regarding the Saskatchewan deal, the point to be made is that the deal expired on March 20. I will be meeting with Saskatchewan representatives on March 31. If they want to reverse the decision they have announced prior, I will be willing to hear that from them. We will wait for any further decisions on Saskatchewan until I have that meeting.

Regarding the Alberta situation, I was as surprised as anyone to read what was happening. I have informed AECL that it is not to follow the relationship with Alberta as it was doing the last number of days. I think that relationship has now ended.