

Oral Questions

Ontario made those commitments, she should meet them.

FEDERAL COMMITMENT

Ms. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, that is simply not good enough.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Gaffney: The news release that is right here was a joint news release by both the Minister of Housing and Ms. Hosek. Why will the Minister and the Government of Canada not keep its promise? Surely the Government has a responsibility to keep its word. It is not doing it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (International Trade) and Minister of State (Housing)): Mr. Speaker, that is not factually correct.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Copps: It is your own news release.

Mr. McDermid: This Government committed dollars to the social housing program across this country, and every single dollar has been spent.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for LaSalle—Emard, and I ask a single question given the time.

Mr. Masse: The new chief.

Mr. Martin (LaSalle—Émard): I would not join your Party, let alone become your Leader.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1500)

Mr. Boyer: We do not want you and we do not need you.

Mr. Speaker: Given the constraints of time, I would ask the Hon. Member to put his question directly.

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[Translation]

FREE TRADE

DEFINITION OF SUBSIDY

M. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of International Trade.

Yesterday, in answer to a question by the Hon. Member for South Western Nova on the possibility of obtaining a definition of what is a subsidy in the context of free trade, the Minister said, and I quote:

[English]

“The omens are not good about agreement... Perhaps over the next five to seven years we will be able to”.

[Translation]

My question is as follows: Does the Government agree to terminate the agreement if a definition acceptable to Canada is not agreed to within seven years?

[English]

My second question, in case the Minister has a little difficulty understanding me—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the hon. gentleman for his election to the House. I can advise him that he is neither wanted in our Party nor would he be needed as Leader, as we have a Leader for the rest of the century.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: The hon. gentleman may find a vacancy at the top of his own Party. It has been vacant now for four years.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, in response to the main body of the Hon. Member's question, we do not know whether the negotiations to find common definition of trade distorting subsidy will be successful or not. In the history of the world there has never been a successful negotiation to that end, but we will give it our best effort.

I am delighted to see that the Hon. Member got his Party's chief financial officer to work on his leadership campaign. He will need him.

Mr. Speaker: I know that, given the fact that one issue took up a great deal of time, Hon. Members will co-operate in letting the Hon. Member for New Westminster—Burnaby have her first question in this session.