

Oral Questions

I think it is because of the Government's refusal to investigate foreign investment in this country that we are now seeing the closure of Canadian Porcelain and the loss of over 200 jobs in the city of Hamilton. What a legacy from a Government which is not prepared to protect Canadian jobs. What a legacy from a Government that actually refused an offer put forth by the workers of that company to purchase the company, but instead chose to sell it off to an American company which is now closing the doors.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, on November 8, 1984, our Minister of Finance tabled his economic statement in this House. The Leader of the socialist party immediately predicted that Canada as a whole would lose 100,000 jobs. In May 1985, the Minister of Finance tabled his Budget. The Leader of the Liberal Party then said that the budget would cost Canada between 100,000 and 125,000 jobs.

As usual, Mr. Speaker, the two Opposition Leaders were both wrong. Since 1984, Canada has not lost any jobs; on the contrary, the Conservative Government has created 1,042,000 new jobs.

Thanks to this Government, unemployment across Canada has gone down by 3.5 per cent to reach 8.2 per cent, the lowest it has been since November 1981.

The two Opposition Leaders are predicting hundreds of thousands of jobs lost because of free trade. This will not happen, Mr. Speaker, because the Free Trade Agreement will bring about the creation of over 350,000 new jobs. Indeed, free trade will create employment, reduce the cost of living for Canadians and provide our productive business people with a much larger and more reliable market.

It is time for Canadians to compare the statements of the two Opposition Leaders with our achievements. We have shown that we can deliver while the Opposition Parties can only criticize without justification.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

SOVEREIGNTY

ARCTIC WATERS—CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In response to the Opposition's attack, and public outcry

following the voyage of the *Polar Sea* through our Arctic waters, the Secretary of State for External Affairs told this House of Commons on September 10, 1985, the following, and I am using his words. "The exercise of functional jurisdiction in Arctic waters is essential to Canadian interests. However, it is no substitute for Canada's full sovereignty over the waters of the Arctic . . . Full sovereignty is vital to Canada's security . . . It is vital to Canada's national identity . . . We will accept no substitute . . . Any co-operation with the United States—will only be on the basis of full respect for Canada's sovereignty".

● (1420)

Those were the Minister's words. The Secretary of State admitted yesterday that a secret deal has been signed between Canada and the United States which allows the Americans access to our northern waters, waters which we claim as national waters, but does not recognize full sovereignty of Canada over those waters.

I ask the Deputy Prime Minister why did the Government of Canada conclude a secret deal which makes a mockery of the Secretary of State's undertaking to the House of Commons?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Pat Carney (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should point out that the Right Hon. Member—

Mr. Foster: Part of the trade deal.

Miss Carney: Mr. Speaker, this is the lead question and answer. Surely the Opposition will give us the opportunity to respond to the question of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition was quoting from a statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who is presently in Europe.

It is a leaked document that the Right Hon. Member is dealing with, so I will not comment on the allegations of a leaked document.

However, the House may be interested in the proposals which are under discussion. The issue with the Americans has been the passage of ice-breakers like the *Polar Sea*. The House will be happy to know that the proposals under discussion will ensure that there could never be another incident like the *Polar Sea*. For that, I would expect to have the congratulations of the Opposition, and not the catcalling that they are now doing.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): It may or may not be a leaked document, Mr. Speaker, but the Secretary of State has admitted the existence of a secret deal with the United States.