

*Oral Questions**[English]***EMPLOYMENT****EFFECT OF CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—
NEED FOR ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS**

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Last evening in the committee the Minister of Employment and Immigration made what can only be called a shocking confession on behalf of the Government, that there are absolutely no plans and there is no interest in preparing plans for the adjustment of all those communities that will be affected under a free trade deal. Yet the Government's own studies, prepared by the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion, have pointed out that thousands of workers will be displaced or dislocated across the country upon the signing of a free trade agreement.

Why is the Government totally ignoring its own studies and totally ignoring its responsibility to prepare some form of adjustment program that will provide help for those workers in those communities who will face dislocation and turmoil as a result of the Government's policy to negotiate a free trade agreement?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry had been present yesterday at the Committee meeting, he would have understood me completely. I said that manpower adjustment is a continuing problem: every year, 2.4 million Canadians are involved in job displacement and avail themselves of the various Government programs to achieve employment adjustment. Therefore, it is completely independent from the trade negotiations with the United States.

Also, I said yesterday that nobody is in a position to foresee exactly what individual area of our economy would be affected, should we ever reach an agreement with the United States. Studies have been made. I suggest it would be somewhat premature, before any agreement is reached, to indicate in which industry we should apply adjustment mechanisms. I can assure my hon. friend that if we need to define these industries, we shall do so. We do it already for 2.4 million Canadians. Therefore, instead of trying to frighten people, I think we should use the mechanisms that exist already. In my opinion, there is no problem at that level.

*[English]***GOVERNMENT POLICY**

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can take the opportunity at some point to introduce the Minister to his colleague, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, whose Department has prepared a series of studies that demonstrate that in the automobile industry, the food processing industry, the appliance industry and in the agricultural sector there will be

major dislocation of thousands of jobs, affecting communities in all those sectors.

When the Government states that this is the most important economic policy it has, surely it should recognize that it will need special programs to prepare those workers whose jobs will be lost or affected. Why is the Government doing absolutely nothing to prepare for that outcome? Is the real reason that the Government does not want to admit that there will be jobs lost because it will show that its policy is bankrupt?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, let me suggest to my hon. friend that he would rather try to scare Canadians than have them believe that we are right.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION**RETURN OF CORRECTLY ADDRESSED MAIL**

Mr. Murray Dorin (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Post. I have been receiving many complaints from constituents that mail is being returned to the sender marked "Address Unknown". In each case, however, the mail was correctly addressed. I have been shown examples of such mail.

I have with me today a package that was sent from my office to a constituent, which has been returned in a completely mutilated condition more than a month after being mailed. In fact, the correct name, address, street, city and postal code are on both sides of the package. Will the Minister tell us when we can expect the people at the Post Office to learn how to read and provide the service for which people are paying?

● (1450)

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Would you believe tomorrow?

The question of the service of the Post Office is very serious. As the Marchment Committee pointed out, there are very serious problems in the Post Office we are trying to address. I have indicated that service has to be the very first priority. In that regard, a large national consulting firm has been hired and will report on a quarterly basis to Parliament and to the public.

Mr. Benjamin: That will cost the public.

Mr. Andre: Socialists apparently are not interested. It will report on a quarterly basis to Parliament and to the public about the service of the Post Office. It will be an independent outside audit.

In the meantime, I think complaints such as that of the Hon. Member should be directed to the Post Office so that the employee, supervisor, or manager who is responsible for that