

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)):** Mr. Speaker, the member is wrong. We do not turn everyone away at the border. Our officials use discretion. Of the 1,126 claimants who have come to the borders of Ontario and Quebec since February 23, 776 were asked to await a hearing before an adjudicator in the United States, but 350 were allowed to enter. That is over 30 per cent.

## PROVISIONS OF STATUTE

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, what I said was that most refugee claimants are turned back, and the Minister has confirmed that by saying that a majority were turned back.

I am referring to the violation of the statute which says that officers may exercise their discretion, as compared to the telex which says that these people are to be sent back.

Therefore I ask the Minister: Will he respect the legislation of Parliament and now recall all those refugee claimants who were illegally turned away since February 20?

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)):** Mr. Speaker, the member refers to a letter by an immigration lawyer that asks for information which requires legal interpretation. I have asked my officials to look into it. I assure the member that I will get back to him as soon as we have the information.

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## TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—EFFECT ON  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The President of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce said yesterday that he fears Canada's financial services are being bargained away during the current free trade talks with the United States. He said:

We must not bargain away our strengths in an industry generating large amounts of foreign exchange for our country. Granting unbridled access to our domestic market in financial services could well reverse the flow.

What is the current status in the free trade negotiations of financial institutions, particularly the Government's position in respect of free access of U.S. financial institutions to the Canadian market?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I would agree with the position which the Chairman of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce has set out. We have a very important industry, an industry which gives us access to all parts of the world and assists in foreign trade as well as in the flows of capital.

We have no intention whatsoever of bargaining away the positions which the Hon. Member has suggested. We are going

to be taking a tough position on how we deal with this, and I think the Hon. Member will find that out as time progresses.

[*Translation*]

FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS—STOCKBROKERS—GOVERNMENT  
POSITION

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, since we have no idea what is going to happen to our financial institutions in the free trade negotiations with the United States, would the Minister of Finance not agree that the time is badly chosen to allow American companies to buy up to 50 per cent interest in stockbrokerage firms, considering that no decision has been made and that American companies are allowed to buy Canadian firms, up to 50 per cent before June 30, and up to 100 per cent after June 30, 1988? Why not wait for the outcome of these negotiations before allowing Americans to take over our stockbrokerage firms?

[*English*]

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, that policy was laid down on December 18. It was made absolutely clear that the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario were moving together with regard to the wishes expressed by the financial industry, the banks, and the investment community.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Birds Hill.

**Mr. Garneau:** So you let them go to the United States.

**Mr. Blaikie:** If the Liberals would just be quiet for a minute, Mr. Speaker—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. de Corneille:** Shame.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Sanctimonious.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Get out of the pulpit.

**Mr. Speaker:** I might suggest to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Birds Hill that I might get further extending his request than he will.

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● (1500)

## NUCLEAR ENERGY

## LEPREAU II REACTOR PROJECT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy. Given that the Minister yesterday initiated what could be quite a useful debate about Canada's energy options, depending on the process and who the Minister intends to involve, can he make a commitment to the House today that in the meantime, until this debate about