

*Oral Questions*

Chairman, Mrs. Jean Pigott, in establishing a ceremonial route for our capital in consultation with the local community.

I have not always agreed with Mrs. Pigott in the past. We have disagreed on such issues as the Mile Circle Park and many others. However, on this issue she certainly has my support.

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**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**TRADE**

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—ISSUES AFFECTING PROVINCES

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I would like to pose a question to the Deputy Prime Minister. Contrary to previous commitments, last night the Prime Minister in his meeting with the provincial Premiers refused to put forward any meaningful ratification process for the Canada—U.S. free trade deal, even though, as we well know, the provinces constitutionally are not required to accept any requirement under the international treaty which affects their own jurisdictions. How can the Government continue to negotiate with Americans on matters affecting provincial jurisdictions when it does not have in place a proper ratification scheme affecting those jurisdictions? How can one, in effect, negotiate away something when one has not even received it yet?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** I think the Hon. Member is overlooking the fact that the success of last night's meeting showed that the process we have in place is working and there is no need to try to find an alternative mechanism at this time. The subject was discussed, but the fact is that many of the Premiers said the system was working well, that it was a way of drawing out consensus, and no one could think of any way of doing it which would achieve any better results.

I might also point out that during the negotiation of the Auto Pact, when the Hon. Leader of the Opposition sat on this side of the House, that Auto Pact was negotiated without any reference at all to the province most concerned, Ontario.

REQUEST THAT PROVINCES HAVE APPROVAL AUTHORITY

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, we know the Hon. Minister has a somewhat curious definition of what success is. After the meeting last night eight of the ten Premiers said that the Prime Minister had failed to live up to his pledge, and that the Government must have a ratification scheme in place before the negotiations continue. Because of the importance of those types of commitments, what steps is the Government taking at the present time to ensure that the provinces will have total and complete approval

of any measures taken under a free trade deal that affect their jurisdiction?

● (1420)

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the steps the Government is taking are with respect to involving the provinces in the most extensive consultative process that the country has ever seen. This is the fourth time that the First Ministers have met. I was present at the meeting. It was very amiable. All these subjects were discussed at length in very amiable terms. The general consensus was that the process is working. I do not know whether the Hon. Member is simply reading *The Toronto Star* again or not, but the Ministers around the table were united in the position that the consultative process is working. If the deal which emerges is not satisfactory to all concerned then there will be no deal, as the Prime Minister has said.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO CHAIRMAN OF CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a third question of the Minister. This morning the Chairman of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, a federal agency, stated very clearly in proceedings before a committee that the questions concerning Bill C-58, simulcasting, income tax rules and copyright are essential to the integrity of the Canadian cultural industries. Considering the importance that the chief regulator of Canadian culture puts on these matters, will the Minister guarantee us now that these very specific items will not be included as part of any free trade deal with the United States?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, no one has expressed more clearly than has the Prime Minister that Canada's cultural identity and the instruments of achieving it are not the subject of discussion in the free trade talks. I do not know why the Hon. Member and the Liberal Party keep dragging culture, the Auto Pact, and marketing boards on to the negotiating table. The Conservative Government is not discussing those subjects at the negotiating table.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

ACID RAIN—FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the Secretary of State for External Affairs back from his trip to Washington. In light of polls which indicate that 60 per cent of Canadians see acid rain as the number one issue between Canada and the U.S., can the Minister give the House an