

These meetings were held without advising the Minister of Finance of Canada (Mr. Wilson) and without any consideration for Canada's interests.

Once again that is what I would describe as anti-Canadian action by American authorities who could not have cared less about their so-called friend Brian.

Finally, we have this incident which is like a slap in the face, this unprecedented levy. Never before in the history of Canada-U.S. relations did the President of the United States sign a document to impose a 35 per cent tariff on Canadian products going to the United States. Well, I say that the American approach should not surprise us because, unfortunately, we have to admit that since his election our Prime Minister has been behaving more like an American state governor than the head of a sovereign nation. To please the United States, to please his so-called good friend Ronald, the Prime Minister repeatedly kowtowed to the American authorities. For openers, he abolished the Foreign Investment Review Agency to please the Americans. Offhandedly and strictly to please American interests he axed an organization which enabled us to pass an impartial judgment as to whether or not these American investments would economically benefit Canada. Now the Americans can come over here to buy any Canadian company, they can make any kind of investment in this country; without asking for permission from Canadian authorities, without fear of sanctions or intervention from the Canadian Government, they can buy out a company and then close it to get rid of an embarrassing competitor and conclude a merger to benefit an American company which will then be in a position to make more profits once the Canadian company has disappeared. In my opinion, sooner or later this kowtowing and bootlicking by the Prime Minister of Canada to please the Americans will have a disastrous impact on the Canadian economy. We have lost this screening agency which was our insurance policy to make sure that any investment in Canada would be of significant economic benefit to our economy because our Prime Minister thought he should kneel before the President of the United States.

Mr. Gauthier: Bootlicking indeed!

Mr. Ouellet: And again to please the Americans our Prime Minister tore our Canadian energy policy to shreds. It is very symptomatic to realize that the first move made by United States President Reagan after his election was to order his Minister of Justice to drop legal proceedings against the oil multinationals which had breached the American antitrust legislation. It is rather symptomatic that the first move of the Prime Minister of Canada was to allow the major oil multinationals to recoup huge amounts of money, billions of dollars which poured into the coffers of the oil multinationals right after his election, yet he keeps telling people he has no money to maintain old age security pensions at decent levels, no money to pay for decent health and education programs, no money to implement a regional development policy to help Canada's poorer regions, yet he could find enough money for

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huge handouts to the major oil multinationals and systematically dismantle the National Energy Policy which had been established by the previous Liberal administration. And why? Again, just because our Prime Minister wanted to do his American friends a favour.

Similarly, the Prime Minister promised to introduce a Bill that would benefit the U.S. pharmaceutical industry, at the expense of the Canadian consumer. It is a fact that the extremely strong and powerful U.S. drug company lobby has managed to make itself heard by the U.S. President, and one of the first conversations the newly elected Prime Minister of Canada had with President Reagan concerned what he could do to remove those provisions of the Patent Act that were not to the advantage of the U.S. pharmaceutical industry. We know now, because the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Côté) has had to admit as much in the House, that the Prime Minister of Canada, as a favour to his friend, the President of the United States, promised to introduce this Bill that will very substantially change the situation in the drug industry, a change that will benefit the big U.S. multinationals at the expense of the Canadian consumer. Of course, the Prime Minister said nothing, absolutely nothing when the Polar Sea, this U.S. vessel, violated our territorial waters, ignoring our sovereignty. The Prime Minister of Canada remained silent once again, to be nice to the U.S. President and his American friends.

Similarly, the Conservative Government accepted everything the Americans wanted when our North American Aerospace Defence Treaty, commonly referred to as NORAD, came up for renewal. When this treaty was renewed, everything that the Americans wanted was agreed to and accepted. Even worse, to make the President happy, the Prime Minister agreed to let Canadian companies take part in the Star Wars Project which is so dear to the heart of the President.

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After all the concessions made by the Canadian Prime Minister to the United States month after month, how could the President and the Congress of the United States take the claims of this Conservative Government seriously? Our Prime Minister has acted like the governor of an American state too long to be considered a real head of state who wants to negotiate on equal footing with his American partner. This is the great tragedy of the present situation. How can we hope to have valid free trade negotiations with the United States if we cannot have the respect of our American *vis-à-vis*?

We realized how precarious our situation was when the American negotiator indicated during a press conference that, as far as he was concerned, the United States entered the discussions on free trade with Canada with no preset conditions. The American negotiator told us publicly that, as far as he was concerned, everything was on the table. Everything could be negotiated for this new free trade agreement between Canada and the United States. Obviously, Canada has a lot to lose in such a case.