

*Oral Questions*

In summary, our study found major improvements in financial control in government. We are encouraged by the progress made by a number of departments, particularly in the past two years.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Order.

**Mr. Riis:** A \$5 million kickback.

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**TRADE**

## CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister, but I say to the Deputy Prime Minister first—

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** What did Riis say about kickbacks?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** What did Riis say about kickbacks?

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Has he the courage to put it on the record?

**An Hon. Member:** Come on, get up and say it.

**Mr. Riis:** Five million dollar kickback.

**Mr. Shields:** Goddam sleaze bag.

**Mr. Riis:** Come across here and say that, you phoney.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Have some courage, Nelson.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Stand up and say it. Say it publicly.

**Mr. Masse:** Say it publicly.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps I can ask the Hon. Member for Oshawa, despite how great the temptation may be to get into an earlier exchange, to concentrate on the question he is going to ask and to concentrate on that question to the particular Minister to whom he wishes to put the question.

**Mr. Broadbent:** As always, your Honour, I accept your advice.

My question is directed to the Prime Minister. It was the Prime Minister who said not many weeks ago that the trade deal negotiated between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States—and if these were not the precise words, the idea was there—was the most significant trade deal in history. Considering that this is the case and considering that almost every sector of the Canadian economy is seriously affected, does the Prime Minister not think it is incredibly irresponsible for the Government to say now that the final wording will be produced perhaps as late as the first week in December, and to have this all completed by January 2?

Does he believe the Premiers of Canada have time to look at this, that the Parliament of Canada has time to look at it and the people affected have time to look at it? Why does the Government not go back to the United States and at the very least ask for an extension of the deadline?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend should not get exercised. We said we would produce the final wording just as quickly as possible. The day after, I produced the documents in the House that were available to all of us, invited debate thereon, followed by another series of debates. I have indicated consistently that just as quickly as the final wording is available it will be made available to the House.

Meanwhile, the Government of Ontario has sent out a committee of six or seven Ministers who are travelling the province seeking views, generally speaking, on the trade initiative as it is defined. The Government of the Province of Quebec is doing the same thing. While waiting for the definitive text, I would hope the House of Commons would follow suit. Just as quickly as we have the information, I will provide it to my hon. friend and it will be in ample time for even him to make up his mind.

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint Jacques):** Cheap shot.

**Mr. Broadbent:** I will ignore that touching comment by the Prime Minister.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS' DECISION ON HOLDING OF HEARINGS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** I want to say to the Prime Minister that it is not the Government of Ontario that has negotiated the deadline with the United States. It is not the Government of Ontario which will be signing the agreement with the United States. It is the Government of Canada that will be doing that. It is the Government of Canada's responsibility.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** Considering that the Conservative Members of the House committee that will be looking at this, earlier this month said in committee that they would not consider this issue until they had final wording, will the Prime Minister inform the House why the Government forced the Conservative Members of that committee to change their decision yesterday to meet your deadline?

• (1450)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this is a genuinely preposterous situation put forward by the Leader of the NDP.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Ever since we brought in the trade deal the NDP has been saying that if the Canadian people knew about it they would turn it down. Now, when we try to make it