

guistic achievement. I also have a word of warning for the newly elected leader of the NDP: "Watch out. He is learning fast!" My sincere congratulations to the member for his initiative.

[English]

My hon. friend knows full well, of course, that Canadian interests are protected by the rules of origin provisions our arrangements with the United States.

Should Mexico seek to negotiate a freer trade or a free trade agreement with the United States, obviously this conceivably could have an impact on trade with Canada. That is something that we would monitor very carefully.

However, our fundamental position is that it is clearly in the interests of a developing country like Mexico to seek to increase its own national wealth and the well-being of its citizens to take it out of a degree of poverty to a greater stage of development and prosperity through greater trade.

One of the ways of doing that is through free trade with its neighbours. I do not think those of us on either side of the House would be offended if Mexico sought to do that. Indeed, I know my hon. friend would want to encourage Mexico to do more of it.

**Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca):** Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Prime Minister's position on being concerned about Mexico's poverty. But the problems of Mexico's poverty should not be solved at the expense of Canadian workers and Canadian businessmen.

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

**Mr. Barrett:** The fact is, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps the hon. member could put his question.

**Mr. Barrett:** Mr. Speaker, the fact is that unless the government is prepared to defend Canadian workers, what is the use of being the government? The government's position should be supporting Canadians.

What studies has the Canadian government done that evaluate the impact of a successful conclusion of a free trade agreement between Mexico and the United States, and its impact on the Canadian market? Mr. Hartt already suggests that five times the amount of trade is taking place—

### *Oral Questions*

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is: What study has been done? Perhaps the minister wants to respond.

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

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I was, as I am sure the House and the country were, dismayed by some of the earlier comments by my hon. friend. The socialists always talk a better game about social justice than they ever deliver.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** I do not think that it is in keeping with the spirit of Coldwell or Tommy Douglas for the member from British Columbia to be talking about Canadians being worried about—

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

**Mr. Barrett:** Baloney! You're selling out Canadians.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Algoma.

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### AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

Yesterday, the Minister of Agriculture of Manitoba pointed out just how impossible—some would say "phony"—the federal government's program of assistance to farmers is in that the federal government is demanding \$100 million from the province of Manitoba when its entire agriculture budget is only \$85 million.

I wonder why the government has designed a program that cannot help farmers because it has demanded an impossible amount of support and assistance from the provincial governments. I wonder why the government is doing this.

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) and Minister of State (Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am a little bit surprised by the remarks of the hon. member. Our government has put about \$20 billion over the last several years into agriculture. It has done a lot for farmers in Canada.

After two days of discussion on the future of agriculture last week, the Minister of Agriculture put \$500 million on the table. Given that agriculture is a shared responsibility in the country, we think that the federal government has done a lot for farmers over the last several years.