

Oral Questions

the views of Mr. Michel Robert, a candidate to the presidency of the Liberal Party of Canada, who professed his confidence in our trade negotiations with the United States. Michel Robert is a member of the Macdonald Commission, the Commission of Inquiry on the Economy which also favours the enhancement of our trade with the United States.

Clearly, the Liberals do not agree at all on our trade with the Americans. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) is against. The Party Leader wants the Government to stop all negotiations. Another Quebecer, perhaps their future president, the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau), the so called Quebec expert in this matter, is sometimes for, and sometimes against. Sometimes he knows, other times he doesn't know. He is not sure where he stands on the matter.

If this party is truly responsible, it will have to discipline its members and declare to the Canadian public its position on the development of bilateral trade with the United States.

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[English]

TRADECANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—POSITION OF
CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY OF LIBERAL PARTY

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, I rise on very much the same subject. "I remain convinced that free trade with the United States is something which is valuable". These, Mr. Speaker, are the words of one Michel Robert, one-time member of the Macdonald Royal Commission who now is running, Lord only knows why, for the presidency of the Liberal Party.

It is nice to learn that at least one Liberal knows where he stands on this important issue. Most of them just waffle away in the miasma of internal division that afflicts that directionless and leaderless Party.

Welcome, Mr. Robert, to the realm of rational thought and affirmative Conservative policy.

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**DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND
IMMIGRATION**

LAY-OFFS IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleague, the Hon. Member for Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador (Mr. Rompkey), in bringing to the attention of the House the situation in Newfoundland where project officers for the Job Development Program in Newfoundland are being laid off. The result of this lay-off is that each project officer in rural

areas, with a coastline sometimes 500 miles long, is responsible for administering up to 90 projects per individual, which is an impossible situation recognizing the great number of projects and the size of the coastline in Newfoundland.

I brought this matter personally to the attention of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald). I am hopeful that having raised this matter with her, having pointed out the realities of Newfoundland's rural life and the difficulty of getting around in that part of Canada, that this matter can be corrected soon, that my people can be well served, and that those employees who are doing such a good job will retain their ability to serve the people of Canada, and more important, the people of Newfoundland. I look forward to hearing from the Minister.

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. On this very sombre day the whole world is stopping to pay respect to the victims of the Soweto massacre. Would the Deputy Prime Minister report on the progress which the Canadian Government is making in trying to develop more effective international action against apartheid in South Africa? Could the Deputy Prime Minister tell us if the Prime Minister was in contact with Mrs. Thatcher over the weekend urging her to change her position and provide some leadership in this area? Also, were we in contact with the Foreign Ministers in the European Economic Community who are meeting today to discuss possible sanctions? Finally, have we been in touch with other Commonwealth leaders to determine whether they are prepared to meet earlier than August to discuss this emergency situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That was, in effect, four questions.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman said that the whole world is remembering the Soweto massacre. As he knows, our Embassy in South Africa was closed today. I am informed that Canada was the only country officially represented at the memorial services in South Africa.

With respect to his questions with regard to the leadership Canada has given in this matter, the answers remain the same. The Prime Minister is taking initiatives without waiting for August, and he will continue to do so.