

*Oral Questions*

justify this threat to Canada's interest, all because of the free trade agreement with the United States?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, again, the Leader of the Opposition surprises me. He knows perfectly well that the Canadian economy is modern and dynamic. There are structural changes and job changes taking place. I believe the Minister of Employment and Immigration indicated that between 25 and 40 per cent of the Canadian labour force changes jobs in the course of one year. This reflects the reality of competition and the rapid technological changes that our economy and all economies have to cope with. I am surprised to hear the line of reasoning taken by the Leader of the Opposition, because since January 1, instead of jobs being lost in this country, 216,000 new jobs were created, and 73 per cent were full-time jobs.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** I find it hard to understand their position. The Minister for International Trade tells me that the exact figure is 232,000 new jobs created since the elections, last year. Why does he keep saying the economy is going down hill? Our job creation rate is already impressive, and we will try to maintain it at this level, despite the obstruction and the reactionary views of the Liberal party.

• (1420)

[*English*]

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I can understand your impatience, Mr. Speaker. Nobody really believes that stuff any more.

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

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

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** We told the Prime Minister when he came back from telling the American bankers in New York that Canada was open for business again that this country should not be up for sale. This Prime Minister has put Canada on the auction block.

As part of the trade deal the government also sold out our fish processing industry on both coasts. There is now a crisis in the industry, as we described yesterday. Fish plants are closing down at an incredible rate. It is estimated that approximately 6,000 jobs are going to be lost in the industry in the next few months.

The Prime Minister keeps telling us he has a plan to meet this crisis. What is the plan?

The Prime Minister keeps telling us that there is a special cabinet committee. Where is the report of that committee?

Where are the programs to assist the workers and families of our fishing people on both coasts, both at sea and in the fish processing plants?

**Mr. Mulroney:** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is fulfilling the prophetic statement of his erstwhile finance critic, the member for Etobicoke North, who said—

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

**Ms. Copps:** We've heard this before.

**Some Hon. Members:** Boring!

**Mr. Mulroney:** They can dish it out but they bloody well can't take it. They better get used to it because they are going to get a lot more from us.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** The finance critic of the Liberal party said, "The strategy of the Liberal party and the leader of the Liberal party is very simple. We are going to blame every sparrow that falls on the free trade agreement."

**Ms. Clancy:** The sparrows have fallen.

**Mr. Mulroney:** That is exactly the policy that you are following today. It was dishonest then and it is dishonest today. The Liberal party should be ashamed of itself for not having a policy for job creation in Canada.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** This is where they really deserve the A for hypocrisy. The leader of the Liberal party has the nerve to stand up today and ask what we are going to do about hard-pressed fishing villages in Atlantic Canada when we have introduced a bill that will make it easier to draw unemployment insurance in some areas.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** The Liberal Senators have received instructions—

**Ms. Clancy:** Read the bill again.