

course, I will make inquiries. She may have said it, she may not have said it. It may have been a misquote. It would not be the first misquote that has occurred in this country, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Deputy Prime Minister a supplementary question.

Should the Deputy Prime Minister not get an answer or should the Opposition not be satisfied with the answers the Deputy Prime Minister gives us, would the Deputy Prime Minister be prepared to allow the Hon. Member for Rosemont to testify before a Committee of the House of Commons so that an investigation can be held and this matter cleared up, because these accusations, following all the patronage of the last four years, affect the credibility of all Members of this House. It is therefore important, before an election campaign, that any suspicion be removed.

Would the Deputy Prime Minister be prepared to allow the Member for Rosemont to testify before a Committee of the House of Commons?

● (1440)

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I think I made it quite clear to the House that I would look into this matter. The Hon. Member says if I get an answer they may not be satisfied. That may very well be true. They are very seldom satisfied about anything that we do.

It really strikes me very strangely that every time the Liberal Party seems to be slipping in not being able to get its act together, it resorts to getting back into the gutter. Just because members of that Party were the masters of patronage they think everyone else is the same way.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—
GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns the Government's free trade ad campaign in this pre-election period. When this question came up previously in the House of Commons under the last Liberal Government one authority said: "The whole purpose of an advertising campaign is to obscure the issues and to put across one simple point of view". He went on to suggest that the Opposition viewpoint should also be presented in the ads.

Oral Questions

Will the Deputy Prime Minister take this suggestion, treat this advertising fairly, and see to it that the Opposition is able to design and present half the advertising being put forward in this campaign?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question because it gives me the opportunity to talk about the demands from the Opposition and the demands from the public for more factual information on the agreement.

Our advertising campaign does two things. First, it lists all the information that is available and provides the people an address to write to, or a phone number to call, to receive the factual information on the free trade agreement.

Second, the other series of advertisements is for people in Canada who are preparing for the realities of the 1990s and on into the 21st century, who are going to be on the leading edge of trade not only between Canada and the United States but throughout the world. That is what the advertising is all about. It is to provide more information for the public, exactly what my friend has been demanding for a long time.

TIMING OF CAMPAIGN

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, of course the authority whom I was quoting was the present Minister for International Trade who criticized the last Government so strongly for its advertising campaigns.

I would like now to ask how it can possibly be justified for this Government to be running ads which states "Free trade. We're getting ready now", when in fact this legislation has not even passed the House of Commons, has not passed Parliament, and, if the people of Canada have anything to do with it, will never be put into effect?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the theme "We're getting ready now" is being put forward by the business people. They are saying that. Business people understand that we must have a trade agreement with our largest binational trading partner. They are getting ready for the realities of trade in the 1990s. That is what it is all about.

I forgot to mention one other thing. That is that the advertising is inviting Canadians from all walks of life, ordinary Canadians or whoever, to come to seminars which are being sponsored by the Department for International Trade, to introduce the opportunities at these seminars that this trade agreement will provide.

Because it is important, it should be noted that in the first series of seminars 600 companies which had never exported before have been identified and are looking at the new advantages of this trade agreement. The seminars are very successful.