

## S.O. 21

## TRADE

## LIBERALS' POSITION ON FREE TRADE

**Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce):** Mr. Speaker, according to this morning's *Toronto Star* and *La Presse*, Liberal delegates were fiercely divided after a lively two-day debate on free trade.

In a bizarre sequence of events, delegates adopted a resolution in favour of free trade and then supported a policy opposed to free trade. This turnabout elicited some bitter criticism from former Liberal Minister Donald Macdonald, who called his party's position inconsistent. "To outsiders we must look pretty stupid", said Mr. Macdonald, adding that the Liberal Leader, who avoided committing himself, "will now have to get to work with his caucus, where most of this nonsense comes from".

The Liberal Leader's speech on liberalisation of trade with the United States showed his tacit approval of my Government's initiative. However, that was not the position taken by the critic for international trade or the critic for external affairs.

Canadians must realize the tremendous confusion among Ottawa Liberals on a number of important issues.

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[English]

## FISHERIES

## GEORGES BANK—POSSIBLE IMPACT OF DRILLING FOR OIL

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, Texaco Canada plans to drill on the Georges Bank in Atlantic Canada beginning next year. This area is one of the richest sources of fishing in the world. The scallop intake provides half the total value of all fishing for Nova Scotia. Georges Bank is extremely sensitive environmentally. In an effort to protect both jobs and this fragile resource, the Newfoundland United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1252, and the fishermen's union, are calling for the Bank to be named a marine sanctuary.

The only research that has been done to date to study the impact of offshore drilling in this area has been done by the Canadian Oil and Gaslines Association. I join my Atlantic New Democratic colleagues in their concern that this is less than reassuring. The Government should provide Atlantic Canadians with an independent report to study the impact of offshore drilling on the Georges Bank.

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

## OPPOSITION TO ENTRANCE INTO INSURANCE BUSINESS

**Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon—Souris):** Mr. Speaker, a number of small businessmen in my constituency who sell general insurance, and many of their customers, are worried about a federal proposal which would allow banks and other financial institutions to sell general insurance.

Allowing banks and trust companies to sell insurance could introduce unfair competition into the insurance market, in that many people could feel pressured into buying their insurance from the bank with which they deal. The major banks are already very powerful. I share the concern of many of my constituents that the banks could eventually dominate certain areas of the insurance business, and some small businesses would be wiped out completely.

Small businesses are a vital part of our economy. Insurance is a complicated commodity. Independent agents have worked hard and successfully to give their customers the best possible service. I hope that the Government will not pass any legislation which would threaten such small businesses.

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[Translation]

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## IMPACT OF FORGET REPORT

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, it is discouraging to see that the Government has already accepted the Forget report's recommendations on annualization of unemployment insurance benefits.

Mr. Speaker, not so long ago, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) stated that he wanted the rich to be richer, and now he has found a way for the poor to be poorer. It would be totally unacceptable for the Conservative Government to accept this recommendation. It would have the following consequences, for instance in Quebec, where a father of two would have to go on welfare to get \$435.

I would ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Minister to stop the consultations and stop the spending. This is what Canadians think: they say no to the Forget report and annualization, and yes to sound, positive recommendations.

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## PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

## REQUEST THAT MEMBER FOR MOUNT ROYAL PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE ON BILL C-22

**Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis):** In 1968, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Government introduced a bill dealing with the