

*Oral Questions*

## EXEMPTION FROM U.S. TRADE LAW—EFFECT OF AGREEMENT

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister has said in the House repeatedly, particularly in the last debate on this issue, that her purpose was to get an exemption from American countervail. We can give her the citations. She said it right in this House.

The Prime Minister said in New York City that American trade law cannot apply to Canada, period. I cite again for the Minister's attention 1904.2 of the agreement referring to American trade law future and applicable; anti-dumping, quotas, surtax and countervail will apply to Canada. How is it, therefore, that Canada has an exemption from American trade law in this agreement? How have we got secure access to the American market?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Member's question is both pitiful and pathetic. I am being very kind to the Right Hon. Member.

I have explained to him in the course of debate over the last year, when I told Canadians about the historic negotiations that took place over the last 16 months and the historic negotiations that took place in Washington in October and recently, that we had set ourselves that goal of creating new laws and we could not do it in the time period available to us. Therefore, we have put in interim measures while we develop the new laws that are required when there are two markets that are being integrated into one through the reduction of tariffs.

It is a matter of public record. I have said that all across the country. For the Right Hon. Member to maintain, after we have tabled the "Elements of the Agreement" and after we have tabled the entire Free Trade Agreement, that I am claiming that we are exempt from U.S. trade law is ridiculous and irresponsible.

## PROPOSED OMNIBUS U.S. TRADE BILL—PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister for International Trade. While the Minister is talking about statements that are ridiculous and irresponsible, I would like to cite to her a statement made by the Prime Minister of Canada in an interview in *The New York Times*. He said: "We will have guaranteed access to the U.S. market through the elimination of U.S. trade laws or we won't have a deal". That is a direct quote from the Prime Minister of Canada.

• (1430)

The fact that the Minister for International Trade is engaging in double-backward gymnastics, trying to cover up her tracks on this matter, is of no comfort to Canadians when they know that they are being denied proper information.

My question is directed to the Minister. She said yesterday in response to a question that she had not had time to know

what was in the U.S. Trade Bill which will apply to Canada if passed. I have here a 45-page document prepared by the Department of External Affairs which outlines every specific issue in the proposed omnibus U.S. Trade Bill. Obviously the Minister has not got around to reading that.

An all-Party committee of the Commons recommended that the Government say now that it will not abide by the agreement if the United States passes the omnibus Trade Bill before it deals with the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement. Therefore, can we get a firm commitment from the Minister today that the Government will not proceed with the trade agreement if the Americans pass the omnibus Trade Bill?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, double-backward gymnastics may be easy for the Hon. Member but are very difficult for me.

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

**Ms. Carney:** The Hon. Member raised several issues in his question. Possibly he would like to repeat them in a supplementary question.

If the opposition Party read past Article 1904 to Article 1906, it may explain to them the provisions of the Free Trade Agreement.

Article 1906: Duration, says:

The provisions of this Chapter shall be in effect for five years pending the development of a substitute system of rules in both countries for antidumping and countervailing duties as applied to their bilateral trade. If no such system of rules is agreed and implemented at the end of five years, the provisions of this Chapter shall be extended for a further two years. Failure to agree to implement a new regime at the end of the two-year extension shall allow either Party to terminate the Agreement on six-month notice.

That certainly meets the Prime Minister's commitment.

## REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT ACCEPT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the Minister no longer has much agility of feet. I knew she had no agility of mind, but we now recognize that she cannot move on her feet either.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Cry-baby.

**Mr. Axworthy:** I am not crying. I am just saying that some of us are a little more quick-footed than others.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry will put his question.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Speaker, I will now pose the question which I thought the Hon. Minister might want to answer. Will the Government go along with the unanimous recommendation