

TRADE

SUPPORT FOR CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, I am standing today in the House to applaud the people of Ontario. Today's edition of *The Globe and Mail* published the results of a recent poll which indicates that support for the position of provincial Liberals on freer trade is fast dwindling. Nearly half the respondents disapprove of the provincial position.

The facts are clear. Freer trade is an idea whose time has come. Despite the flimsy arguments put forward by the Opposition, the people of our country are throwing their support behind the initiatives of the Government. Perhaps, in light of these recent developments, the Opposition and the Government of Ontario will realize the wisdom of a unified approach to these negotiations.

The President of the United States supports freer trade with Canada. The Canadian Government supports the freer trade initiative. The people of Ontario support this initiative. Perhaps it is time for the Opposition and the Government of Premier Peterson to come over to the side fighting for economic security for all Canadians.

* * *

FISHERIES

CANADA-FRANCE AGREEMENT—REGIONAL MEETINGS
SCHEDULED BY LIBERAL CAUCUS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, last evening the Atlantic Liberal caucus met in an emergency session and consulted with our Leader. We wish to announce today that members of our caucus will be visiting various parts of Newfoundland and Atlantic Canada to hold a series of meetings beginning today with interested individuals and groups in the particular regions affected by the Canada-France fishing agreement.

The caucus members will discuss the impact of the arrangement and will consult on appropriate alternatives to the present agreement, which we say is totally unacceptable to the people of Atlantic Canada.

My colleagues from Newfoundland are presently there consulting with affected individuals. We wish to come back to the House with suitable alternatives to what is known as an unconscionable agreement which affects the lives and livelihood of the people of Newfoundland and Atlantic Canada.

S.O. 21

[Translation]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, a recent Decima poll made public by the *Globe and Mail* last January 21 indicates that the environment is the first priority of Canadians. The Abitibi—Témiscamingue socio-economic summit has just emphasized that the environment issue is also the first concern of the residents of that region.

Mr. Speaker, such findings are proof positive that for nearly 20 years now Canadian public opinion has been made fully aware of and kept well informed about the damage and negative impact of pollution on human health and the ecology. In the past two years our Government has made firm commitments to reduce this scourge. Last December 18 the Minister of Environment (Mr. McMillan) tabled in the House the proposed Environmental Protection Act, again showing our resolve to fight against polluters in our society. With this measure, Canada ranks first among industrialized nations in the fight against pollution.

* * *

● (1405)

[English]

INVESTMENT CANADA

WEST KOOTENAY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY—SALE TO
AMERICAN CORPORATION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, more and more Canadians from coast to coast are beginning to ask the question: "Who stands up for Canada?" Who stood up for Canada when our softwood lumber industry came under attack? Not this Government.

Who stood up for Canada when the Reagan administration demanded that Canada change its patent laws on drugs that will inevitably mean higher drug prices for Canadians? Not this Government.

Who stood up for Canada when our agreements with the Reagan administration on acid rain were not lived up to? Not this Government. Who stands up for Canada as French, Spanish, Portuguese, American, and Korean fishing fleets steal our fish on the Grand Banks? Not this Government.

And now, Mr. Speaker, the people of southern British Columbia are wondering who is standing up for their interests as a big American corporation is on the verge of taking over West Kootenay Power and Light Company and its water rights to a major western Canadian water system. Why is this Government on its knees watching this potentially disastrous take-over go ahead? Why did the Government give approval through Investment Canada for this take-over before hearings were even completed to hear the views of local residents?