

## S. O. 21

## NUCLEAR ENERGY

## NUCLEAR POWERED VESSELS—CONSEQUENCES OF ACCIDENT

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, 70 years ago between 2,000 and 3,000 Halifax residents died in a devastating naval explosion. More than 10,000 people were injured and about 200 blinded. The December 6, 1917, collision in Halifax Harbour between the munitions carrier *Mont Blanc* and the Belgian ship *Imo* levelled more than 1,600 buildings within a 25-kilometre radius, and 12,000 buildings were seriously damaged.

Recent research explores the possible results of an accident which could happen at any time involving nuclear powered or armed vessels in a Canadian harbour. The horror of this scenario which, for the study, was set in Esquimalt Harbour, makes the Halifax explosion pale to near insignificance. The potential aftermath—latent cancer, severe genetic defects, environmental damage, and economic dislocation—is even more horrifying.

Canada has no adequate plans to deal with an accident of these proportions. The Government of Canada refuses even to insist on knowing whether or not visiting ships are nuclear armed. What will it take to make the Government realize that it is playing fast and loose with the lives and safety of Canadian citizens?

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[Translation]

## TRADE

## FREE TRADE—CANADIANS' INTERESTS

**Mr. Clément M. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of those who are opposed to the Free Trade Agreement, I would like to quote part of what was said by Professor Bernard Landry, former Quebec Minister of Trade and International Relations, in his testimony before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade. I quote:

The first point I want to make is that this 35-page agreement drawn up by the Canadian and American negotiators is the envy of almost all Western countries. I do not think that has been stressed enough. The main client of most countries in the world, both in the East and the West, is the United States of America. This is true of the Federal Republic of Germany as well as Japan, France and Italy. They have to make do with multilateral negotiations. They all have to sit down at the GATT table. The EEC countries must first get together for negotiations among themselves and settle their own business before dealing with the United States of America in Geneva or wherever the GATT negotiations are taking place.

Here we have the United States' main trading partner, Canada, managing to obtain an agreement that establishes its

particular position. Out of all the countries in the world it is the one that trades most and is the most closely linked economically with the United States, and here we have that status taking a legal form.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of achievement will serve the interests of Canadians of all ages and will serve them well.

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## TAX REFORM

## SOCIAL SECURITY—POSITION OF SENIOR CITIZENS

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montréal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, this morning, together with my colleagues, the Finance critic and the Hon. Member for Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic (Mrs. Killens), I had the pleasure of meeting with representatives of senior citizens' groups, the *Coalition du troisième âge du Québec*, which represents 400,000 senior citizens. They came to share their comments on the tax reform proposals made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). They say no to fiscal injustice. Pensioners condemn the Conservative Government's tax reform. Mr. Speaker, according to these people, the Conservative Government failed to learn a lesson when it was forced to backtrack on de-indexation of Old Age Security pensions. These people are asking that companies pay their fair share and that pensioners no longer be sacrificed.

Second, they want investment income to be maintained and converted into a tax credit, and they want full indexation of the personal income tax system.

Mr. Speaker, all these representatives of Quebec's senior citizens' groups were disappointed when they left their meeting with representatives of the Minister of Finance, and they wondered what the Minister of State (Finance) (Mr. Hockin) was doing to defend their interests. Was it all a lot of bluffing or was it real?

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● (1410)

[English]

## TRADE

## CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION OF MANITOBA PREMIER

**Mr. Felix Holtmann (Selkirk—Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, guess what Howard Pawley's NDPers are doing now to convince Manitobans to oppose free trade? You guessed it, he is forcing his Ministers into Manitoba public schools, proclaiming a military invasion of Canada by the U.S. Marines.

On December 3, at Daniel McIntyre School in Winnipeg, Business Development Minister, Al Mackling, said: "If the