

*Oral Questions*

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that because that would be false.

## REQUEST PRIME MINISTER TABLE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, it is a question which I think the Canadian people can only resolve if the Prime Minister is willing to table the letter which was sent to him by President Reagan. I ask the Prime Minister why he will not do that. Is this country condemned to keep on surrendering while the United States keeps on hammering us?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I know that as a matter of policy the NDP is a protectionist group. I know that the NDP favours this kind of economic isolation. I know that the NDP is opposed to foreign investment unless it happens to be in the riding of the Leader of the NDP.

**Mr. Althouse:** Do you know what your Government's policy is?

**Mr. Mulroney:** We know that NDP policies would take us back to the 1930s. We know, and I can assure the House, that at an appropriate time the anti-trade, anti-American—

**Mr. Blaikie:** You are starting to sound like Trudeau now.

**Mr. Mulroney:**—anti-NATO, anti-business policies of the NDP will be examined by the Canadian people.

**Mr. Riis:** You sound defensive.

**Mr. Mulroney:** May I ask the Hon. Member this. While an international negotiation is going on—

**Mr. Blaikie:** Stop reading your own fund-raising letters.

**Mr. Mulroney:**—designed to create the hope to create jobs for Canada, stop taking the American side—

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Carleton.

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

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## PUBLIC SERVICE

## ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEPUTY MINISTER—PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

**Mr. Young:** Good luck!

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

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, serious allegations, including the accusation of perjury, have been made against the Deputy Minister of Employment and

Immigration. What does the Prime Minister intend to do about these very serious allegations?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the charge of perjury that was made is entirely without foundation. The Deputy Minister, Mr. Gaetan Lussier, neither appeared as a witness in the case in question nor did he sign any affidavit on the matter. He could not even legally, by extension, have been involved in any act that would give rise to that accusation.

• (1140)

May I say on another level that I have had the personal privilege of working with Mr. Lussier, as have other people. I had the opportunity the other day to reach him in Whitehorse to convey to him what he already knew about my view, that he has been, as have his colleagues, a truly outstanding public servant.

The Public Service has served the country honourably and well. This kind of attack is unacceptable. I have dealt with it in my caucus. I shall deal with it every time and in every circumstance.

The accusation against Mr. Lussier is false and unacceptable, and such accusations against public servants shall not be tolerated by the Government.

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

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[Translation]

## CANADA POST CORPORATION

## COST OF EMPLOYING STRIKE-BREAKERS

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Canada Post Corporation. Canadians have voiced their indignation, and even the Conservative Member for Richelieu, echoing the feelings of many of his colleagues, has stated that the Conservative Government is being immoral and antidemocratic when it allows Canada Post to hire strike-breakers and encourages violence on the picket lines. Can the Minister tell us today how much Canada Post is paying to hire strike-breakers? What is the cost of the newspaper ads which Canada Post is running every day? Is there any truth to the rumours that the strike is costing Canada Post up to \$1 million a day?

[English]

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, we know that the lack of postal service in a complete shut-down of the system costs the Canadian economy enormous sums of money. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business said that the last strike in 1981 cost \$3 billion to that business sector alone.