

*Oral Questions***PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

**Mr. Willie Littlechild (Wetaskiwin):** Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to voice my concern for the youth of our country if a form of the proposed GST is not implemented.

If there is a primary reason for one to support the GST, it is to secure the well-being of the tomorrows for the children of today. It is indeed Canada's economic future that we must address. The GST allows us an optimistic economic future, one that we shall be proud to say we helped to shape.

The present economic situation necessitates a tax reform and a GST is a positive reform. It will raise productivity, improve competitiveness and lower the cost of capital goods and thus result in job creation.

It is estimated that as early as 1992, 60,000 new jobs will be created. This is the kind of outlook we want for the youth of this country. Implementation of a type of GST will achieve just that—a secure, promising, healthy economy for all the youth of Canada.

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**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**TRADE**

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

In December of last year in this House he had this to say to members of Parliament, "The free trade agreement continues the process of making trade more and more secure". Those were the Prime Minister's words.

Since this government was sworn in in 1984, we have seen our \$20 billion trade surplus steadily fall to less than half of that in 1988, down to \$4.4 billion for the first three quarters of 1989 and to a world-wide deficit of \$421 million for the month of October—the first world-wide trade deficit since 1976.

We also have a reduction of \$2.5 billion for the first ten months of this year in our trade surplus with the United States.

How can his government take comfort in these latest figures? Is this what the Prime Minister meant when he said to members of the House of Commons that his trade deal would make our trade more and more secure?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as the right hon. gentleman knows, we have trade with the United States in the neighbourhood of \$200 billion a year. It is the greatest trading arrangement between two nations anywhere in the world, and obviously there are fluctuations.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** I am surprised that a former Minister of Finance would either raise it or is chuckling about it. Our trade remains in solid balance. We have a \$4 billion surplus as we speak today.

On the basis of figures for one month, the Leader of the Opposition is now projecting his usual doom and gloom. Why does he not share the optimism and the confidence of all Canadians in respect of trade with other nations and in respect of free trade with the United States, that will ensure growing prosperity? He knows better. He has been a Minister of Finance. He knows full well that it is very misleading to use one month's figures and try to project any serious results from those.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, this is just the latest month in a series in which the figures have shown a steady graph downwards over the past five years of our trade surplus for the world and with the United States.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, this trade agreement with the United States, negotiated by the Prime Minister, proves that our government has abandoned our economy to the United States. Not only are our trade figures deteriorating, we see a restructuring of business across North America which tends to benefit the U. S. worker, at the expense of the Canadian worker. Plants are closing down one after the other, and the number of lay-offs is rising steadily: Gillette in Montreal, Ford in Windsor, Gerber in Niagara Falls, General Electric in Toronto, Indal Limited in Toronto, Inglis in Toronto, Burlington Canada in Toronto, Northern Telecom across Ontario and Dominion Textiles in Quebec. How can the Prime Minister