

All of this I can accept with good grace, I hope, but I have one question. In that vast area between the City of Timmins and the City of Thunder Bay and between Lake Superior and Hudson Bay, the constituency of Cochrane—Superior, was there not one single, solitary Conservative who could be found as worthy to serve on the FEDNOR advisory council?

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—BILL C-22

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. On Tuesday the Minister was asked in the House about media reports indicating that the original version of the trade agreement with the United States and signed by him contained a reference to the Government's drug Bill known as Bill C-22. Referring to *Hansard* of Tuesday, October 13, the Minister is quoted as replying as follows:

The question coming from across the floor is "why did I sign it?" The simple fact is that I did not sign it, nor did the Minister for International Trade, the Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister nor the chief negotiator.

I believe the Minister of Finance, but I have in my hand what purports to be a copy of the original trade agreement with the United States referring to Bill C-22 explicitly, and signed by Michael Wilson, the Minister of Finance; Pat Carney, the Minister for International Trade; Derek Burney, the Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister of Canada; and Simon Reisman, the chief negotiator on behalf of the Government of Canada. Is there another Michael Wilson authorized to sign a trade agreement on behalf of the Government of Canada?

● (1420)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is purposely distorting. That which was tabled in the House by the Prime Minister last week is the official document. That is the agreement we signed on October 3 in Washington.

I have made absolutely clear—and stand by what I said—what was initialled by people in the working groups, that was presented to the main negotiating table and was rejected by us. What was signed by my colleague and the other two who signed the agreement is what was tabled. If the Leader of the Opposition does not accept that, then he is not accepting my word.

Mr. Axworthy: That's right.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, to use the words of Sir Winston Churchill, I have never heard a Minister

of the Crown describe the exact opposite of the truth with so much precision.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PASSAGE OF BILL C-22—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this document bearing the signatures of the Minister of Finance and the Minister for International Trade contains the following sentence on page 37:

Canada has agreed to pass the pending amendments contained in Bill C-22 in respect of compulsory licensing of pharmaceuticals.

This document was presented to Ministers and signed. It was then distributed to reporters at our Embassy in Washington, quickly retrieved, and other pages were substituted.

Is the Minister saying that this agreement which he signed was changed after he signed it? Is he saying that this is not his signature but a forgery? Is the Minister saying that he signed this agreement without reading it first, particularly page 37? Or is the Minister really saying that there is an understanding between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States with regard to the pharmaceutical Bill and that the Government of Canada, including the Minister, does not want the people of Canada to know about it?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have made it absolutely clear that what I signed is what was tabled in the House a week ago last Monday, I believe. If the Leader of the Opposition is not accepting that, he is implicitly calling me a liar and I challenge him to stand up and say that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: Put your seat on the line.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Cut out the bravado.

Mr. Gauthier: What a big phoney you are.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER OF FINANCE ORDER APPEARANCE OF SENIOR NEGOTIATORS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I think I have a solution for the Minister. Since the Minister of Finance, who was supposed to direct the final stages of the negotiations on the Agreement with the United States, today denies he was involved, is he prepared to ask the senior negotiators who drafted page 37 and the document I have here, which mentions the price of drugs, to come before the House and explain who instructed them to change the document after it was signed by the Minister of Finance?