

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

amendment passed to Bill C-130 to specify the Free Trade Agreement did not apply to water.

In that area also, the Agreement is in line with provisions under the GATT that allow a country to take necessary steps to protect the environment. Section 1201 of the Agreement is clear on that.

In fact, the only provision in the Agreement that deals with the matter of water concerns the elimination of tariff on water which we import from the United States.

Our lakes and rivers are not for sale, and Canadians know it. That type of export on the other hand is specifically excluded both by the federal water policy and the Canadian Water Preservation Act.

Canadian sovereignty in that crucial sector—as in all others—is altogether unassailable.

Mr. Speaker, the environmental question underlies the notion of sovereignty. Had the Free Trade Agreement in any way restricted our freedom to act in this field we would not have signed for any consideration whatever.

Over the next few years there will be an unprecedented number of new measures to protect our environment. This happens to be one of the basic commitments we made to Canadian men and women during the election campaign. You may rest assured that this Government will live up to them.

Whether we are talking about cleaning up our rivers or fighting against the depletion of the ozone layer and against every type of toxic emissions, free trade or no free trade, the Canadian Government can take action in all fields related to environmental protection.

During the election campaign the Prime Minister also promised that before the expiry of his second mandate he would sit down with the United States and negotiate a comprehensive agreement for a common effort in fighting acid rain. The new American administration has already indicated it is prepared to undertake such negotiations. Canadians can be assured that, as in the case of the free trade deal, this agreement will be negotiated in the best interests of this country and its citizens.

In our societies, never has so much concern been expressed over our environmental heritage. The United States has responsibilities in that respect, we have ours. And we share common responsibilities. And Canadians can rest assured that we will live up to them competently and energetically, while asserting our full sovereignty.

• (1800)

[English]

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise in this House for my first address. It is with a great sense of pride that I stand in this place as the representative of the people of Winnipeg—St. James.

At the outset, I wish to thank the people of Winnipeg—St. James for the trust they have placed in me in choosing to have me represent them in this the Thirty-fourth Parliament. I shall endeavour to be worthy of that trust, and I promise to serve them to the best of my ability.

Might I also take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate you on your re-election to the chair of this House. I am certain that Members may rely upon you to continue to preserve and safeguard the great traditions of this House.

The constituency of Winnipeg—St. James comprises the western-most portion of the City of Winnipeg, north of the Assiniboine River, and is predominantly urban.

If one travels to Winnipeg by air, one lands at the Winnipeg Airport, which is located within the boundaries of the riding. The Winnipeg Blue Bombers, the Grey Cup champions, play their games in the Winnipeg Stadium, which is located within the boundaries of the riding of Winnipeg—St. James. As well, the Winnipeg Jets—who I am confident will one day, in the near future, win the Stanley Cup—play their home games at the Winnipeg Arena, which again, is located within the boundaries of Winnipeg—St. James.

Like the Prairie people in general, the people of Winnipeg—St. James have a strong belief in fairness, a strong belief in what is right. They are willing to place their trust in others. However, when that trust is betrayed, when that trust is violated, when that trust is left in tatters, they do not forget. While they may not show anger, they will get even. This Government learned that lesson on November 21 last when its shafting of the people of Winnipeg—St. James in respect of the CF-18 maintenance contract came back to haunt them.

The theft of the CF-18 contract was a gross injustice. It was an attack on the voters of Winnipeg—St. James; an attack on their integrity. In fact, it was an attack on the integrity of the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba.

I note that when the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) spoke a few moments ago, a man