

*Time Allocation*

If the Hon. Member has trouble with my interpretation of this provision, perhaps he will accept the interpretation provided by the Premier of Quebec whose irony was apparent on the weekend when he made the following statement, and I quote: "At some time in our lives, we have all made statements based on facts that are not altogether accurate". Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bourassa said these words during the closing ceremony of the sixth convention of the Youth Wing of the Quebec Liberal Party which was held in Sherbrooke on the weekend. At the same convention, militant youth members of the Quebec Liberal Party endorsed a resolution to support the free trade agreement, despite intrusive action by more than 150 delegates from Mr. Turner's party who were sent by his Quebec lieutenant as mercenaries to try and dampen the enthusiasm of Quebec's young Liberals. However, these young people are not as easily taken in as the Leader of the Opposition would like to think. They know that the agreement is a ticket to the future that will give them access to jobs commensurate with their interests and capabilities.

There are others, Mr. Speaker, like the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau), who are lost in their nostalgia for what Canada was like during the last century and who turn a blind eye to this country's potential for the twenty-first century. Mr. Garneau refers to a possible amalgamation of Canada with the United States and spreads fear and panic with his so-called nationalistic tendencies. He says he is fighting to keep Canada independent, but he refuses to understand what this country is all about, a country that has prospered because of its exports. Mr. Speaker, I may remind the Hon. Member that Canada is and always has been a strong country with a distinct identity, and to claim it is on the verge of being assimilated is an insult to the very people who built this country. He hides all too readily behind the alleged values of sovereignty which to him is the same as protectionism. He forgets what his own leader said, and I quote:

[*English*]

—yielding to protectionism under the guise of economic nationalism is self-defeating for Canada. This country has always prospered under freer rules of international trade". Why is it essential to tell them again and again that the way of securing Canada's sovereignty and culture necessitates a strong economy capable of offering to Canadians security, prosperity and a future based on their hopes and aspirations? It is because they do not envision Canada's future.

[*Translation*]

How will these same detractors answer Quebecers, Mr. Speaker, if the United States imposes import restrictions on electricity? Will they answer that to save Canadian sovereignty, they preferred to sacrifice more than 8 per cent of Hydro-Québec's total income? Have they explained to Quebecers, Mr. Speaker, that electricity is not yet covered by international

trade agreements, that the United States can impose restrictions without incurring the sanctions provided by GATT?

The free trade agreement provides that neither Canada nor the United States can impose duties or other charges, import quotas or any other quantitative restriction on energy imports, including electricity, from the other country, unless an exception is recognized by GATT.

Have they explained to Quebecers, Mr. Speaker, that a strong protectionist tendency is now growing in the United States and threatens the viability of our trade with our largest trading partner? Have they told them, Mr. Speaker, that our country's economy is heavily dependent on foreign trade, that more than 30 per cent of our national income and over 3 million jobs depend on this trade?

No, Mr. Speaker, they just raised fear by using false pretexts! In particular, they suggested that Canada would lose power over its water and the legitimate right to control this natural resource. They spoke of our lakes and rivers eventually drying up, but what was really drying up was their own ideas.

Our Government, Mr. Speaker, has removed any controversy by amending Bill C-130, because again they had spread doubt and fear.

And they have done even more by their acts of omission. They have intentionally not said that their leader was and still is the only leader of a national party to have suggested using water as a bargaining tool for greater access to the American market. In a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on December 9, 1965, Mr. Turner said, and I quote:

[*English*]

—and if some day we can agree to the sharing of this continent's water by offering some of our water for export, we might want at that time to insist that if water is to be considered as a continental resource, markets should also be considered on the same basis. We might wish to export—not for money—as we sold power under the Columbia River Treaty, but in return for access to your market".

[*Translation*]

History definitely has its ironies, Mr. Speaker!

[*English*]

We have heard an entire litany of myths, allegations and innuendoes regarding this free trade agreement from the Leader of the Opposition. We have yet to hear any reasonable arguments, any rational debate for substantive opposition from Mr. Turner. The quantity of his material is prolific but the quality of his debate is pathetic.

The people of Canada want to know about free trade. They do not need more simplistic argumentation without any basis of fact. It is time for Mr. Turner to either articulate a real reason as to why he cannot support this agreement, or he should admit that his opposition is based on nothing more than political opportunism, and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker,