

Canadian auto parts manufacturers has gone from 7 per cent to 9 per cent. Their employment has gone from 41,000 to 63,000, up by approximately 50 per cent, while the United States has gone from 325,000 to 378,000, up by approximately 15 per cent. Total shipments by Canadian parts manufacturers has gone from \$5.6 billion to \$12.9 billion, again from 1982 to 1986. That is why we have confidence that this industry will be able to reap tremendous advantages from the free trade agreement.

[Translation]

Allow me to deal briefly with another facet of the free trade agreement, trade in services. There can be no doubt that services make up that sector of our economy which is the largest and fastest growing. Two-thirds of all Canadians are now working in the service sector, and that is where most of our future employment opportunities lie.

[English]

They are vital industries to Canada, and they are strong industries. They are one of the industries that we have been intent in getting on the table in the GATT round. They are an industry in which both we and the Americans have a vital stake in seeing traded freely throughout the world. We set the example by opening them up with this trade agreement in North America.

This brings us many advantages, not the least of which is easier access to some of the advance technology that our industries need. I wish to discuss one such advantage, which is a very interesting one. It deals with the provisions that cover the movement of Canadians across the border for business reasons. No longer will Canadian sales and service people be stopped at the border when they are on their way to sell new wares or service existing contracts. They will no longer have to prove that no American can do the job.

Let me move to one element of the trade agreement that bothers me in the manner that the debate has developed in the last couple of weeks. That relates to our sovereignty. The free trade agreement will do many things. But one thing it will not do is to result in any loss of our sovereignty, either political or cultural.

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

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** As the Leader of the New Democratic Party has stated, it will not end up in the United States absorbing Canada in 25 years' time.

Let us look at the last trade debate. In 1911, Canada was only 44 years old, and searching for its identity. The United Kingdom still regarded us as a colony and not as a country. But look at what has changed in 1987. Our situation has become entirely different. We have developed as a strong country and as a world leader. We are the seventh largest industrialized country in the world. We have forged our identity over 120 years. We have distinguished ourselves in two world wars. Many Canadians died fighting for their freedom,

and were known around the world as being one of the key protectors of freedom in those two world wars.

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

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** We have a very mature economy that is specialized and at the same time quite diversified. We are able to compete with the best. We have very mature social programs in health, a pension plan, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, just to mention four. We have our Constitution, our culture, whether it is ballet, art, or opera. We have our sports figures who are well known around the world. We have had Expo 67 and Expo 86. We have organized two Olympic Games. Why is it that opposition Members have doubts about our sovereignty or identity? Do they think that the United States will or can take this away from us? Do they not have any pride or confidence in our strength as a country?

• (1620)

Much of the development we have seen over the past 50 years has happened as we have developed closer and closer ties with the United States and away from the United Kingdom. We have been able to do this because during the whole period of time we have had a strong economy.

We have been leaders in the world in NATO, NORAD, GATT, IMF, and OECD. We are members of the G-7. We have been a leading member of the United Nations since its start. We are one of the two leading countries in the Commonwealth and the Francophonie.

We have participated in these organizations as a strong sovereign nation. We have done so, in the best interests of a more secure Canada. As we have done so we have earned greater respect from the nations of the world, and we have become more influential as a leading player in the international scene. The case is very clear to me. The free trade agreement is good for us economically. With confidence in ourselves, our abilities, and our achievements we can face the future with the conviction that the agreement can help us grow as a country and mature as an independent sovereign nation.

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

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Before recognizing Hon. Members on questions and comments, the Hon. Minister of State (Mr. Lewis) has a point of order.

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## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the Parties, and I just wish to put on record that tomorrow will be an allotted day.