

peoples have inhabited that area for thousands of years. Perhaps with the passage of the Free Trade Agreement we will be able to proceed further with our land claims, particularly in view of the Meech Lake Accord. It may even be that the Americans will take over in our area and deal with our land claims.

Since the free trade discussions commenced last summer there has been a stepping up of military exercises in the Arctic, which is located between the two super powers, the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. The increased presence of military personnel in the Arctic does indeed cause us some concern. We know that we do not have a large enough military force to look after ourselves should we ever have to fight the U.S.S.R. That is why the American and the Canadian governments seem to be deciding that in the future the Arctic would be a good place for a war zone, because it has such a small population.

● (1700)

I have now been living in Ottawa almost 12 years. Up north we do not have dividing lines. People are free to live on the land. That is how they survive. They do not have it divided. In the south people have their own property, perhaps 60 by 100 feet. People say, "That is my property." When you live in the north you go out on the land and you do not ask who owns the property. You can go anywhere you want. Some are saying that in the future, with free trade, we will have to open up the Arctic more for mining. As an honourable senator said a moment ago, "They have their own country, the biggest in the world." Even our own Government of Canada does not know how large our energy reserves are up in the Northwest Territories. We have energy reserves up there and land for mining. We have fishing and hopes for tourism in the future. We do not see the problem of pollution up there that we see here in the rest of Canada and in the United States. I hope that at the least we understand that we have a country up there.

I have been a member of the Energy Committee since I joined the Senate. I understand some of the problems the Americans have with energy shortages. According to Senator MacEachen, there is nothing in Bill C-2 that would stop the Americans from using our energy. We have in the high Arctic the largest reserve of natural gas in the world. We touched the tip of it about ten years ago. We have been tapping gas there for the last fifteen years. In the future, after the Free Trade Agreement is passed, if the Americans want this gas, they can take it any time they want. I have seen the area of the Beaufort Sea and I have seen the results of the last three or four years since the new government took over, and we have lost a lot of exploration jobs. According to Senator Murray, over the next ten years there will be two million jobs created for the people of Canada. Ten years is a long time to predict whether the people in Canada will be able to find jobs or not. Since free trade was first introduced we have already lost 2,000 or 3,000 jobs, especially in Ontario and Quebec.

I join the other speakers in this house who are concerned about free trade and the survival of our country. I hope our government makes sure that further dealings with the Americans are done right and that we do not make any mistakes.

I should like to tell a little story. In 1942, when I was only about eight years old and the Second World War was in progress, I was at an American army base where they were training dog teams. It was very interesting. They would go out on the land and make trails, using a string of dogs, and work with some kind of explosives or bombs. They were training the dogs for use in Europe. The dogs were being trained day and night. When I was involved at that time I felt I was representing my country. Today the dog team is not used any more; nor will it be in the future because of today's technology. If war broke out today, nobody would think of using dog teams. That was my experience between 1942 and 1945—training dogs for the war in Europe. My hope today is that in the future we will not be living in a war zone, if a third world war should start.

The Inuit people whom I represent are concerned about free trade. We are concerned about the Americans having access to things in the Arctic, particularly the unpolluted water.

If free trade is put into effect, I hope that at least it will be of benefit to ourselves and not only to the Americans.

Hon. Hazen Argue: Honourable senators, I wish to say a few words in this debate. First of all I want to say that I listened with great care to the speech of the Honourable Senator Murray and also to the speech of my leader, the Honourable Senator MacEachen, whose speech was wide-ranging and contained sufficient research material to be a source for people studying the various aspects of this Free Trade Agreement.

I want to speak this afternoon, if I may, as a senator from western Canada and as a farmer and a person who, I believe, has some knowledge of the Canadian grain business and of Canada's accomplishments over the years in that field.

● (1710)

It is my opinion that our Canadian grain system is one of the great economic success stories of our time. In recent years Canadian grain exports have been second in earning foreign exchange for Canada. While the Americans have complained for a number of years that their share of the international grain market was being reduced, the Canadian share of the international grain market, particularly in wheat and barley, has steadily increased. I believe that is a tribute to the efficiency of the system we have in place at this time.

I spoke with a farmer the other day who is a canola producer. He said, "Hazen, in my opinion the Wheat Board when handling wheat is a much greater success story than the export achievements in canola." I said, "How is that?" He said, "Well, we have been producing canola in Canada for many years, but we have only one major export customer, Japan, and that is it. Our next customer is in Canada." He said that in his opinion if we had the same kind of efficiency in the canola marketing system as we have in the Wheat Board system we would have a much wider range of customers. We have a system that appeals to our customers. We boast that we have the best quality wheat in the world and the best grading system in the world, and I think our accomplishments prove that.