

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Mr. McDermid: That isn't where the competition is coming from, it's coming from Third World countries.

Mr. Heap: Much of the competition is coming from Third World countries, but the cut-back produced by this trade deal and by its restriction on Canadian exports regarding the fabrics used will make a difficult situation far more difficult.

The tariff on the footwear products runs close to 21 per cent. This deal would bring the tariff down to zero by 1998. There will be tens of thousands of workers in these three industries displaced, and the majority of the workers in these industries are women.

Mr. McDermid: Do you like keeping women in those ghettos?

Mr. Heap: Of those women, the majority are immigrants, often with no more than grade school education.

Mr. McDermid: Low-paid ghetto. You like keeping people in those positions. You support that.

Mr. Heap: Those are the jobs these women have been able to get in our economy, and they will be forced out of those jobs by the reduction of the tariffs.

Mr. McDermid: And into better jobs, and they deserve better.

Mr. Heap: The Hon. Member says they deserve better jobs, and I agree with him, but the Hon. Member and his colleagues have done nothing to provide them with better jobs. Most of the new jobs created around Toronto and in central Ontario have been low-paid clerical and sales jobs, not better paid manufacturing jobs or professional jobs.

The Hon. Member who generally makes his interventions only when other people have their time to speak is not addressing the situation of these women whose education and language hold them back from these fancy jobs with fancy wages that the Hon. Member is dreaming about. The fact is, these women were brought here to be cheap labour, as the Chinese were brought a century ago by John A. Macdonald, only he was truthful enough to say that as soon as they had done their essential job of building the railway, he would make sure that they were got rid of. It didn't happen that way. Some of their grandchildren are still here with us, but this is the attitude that is being applied now to these women who work in the garment industry. Therefore, there should be a committee to monitor what is happening to the workers in the garment industry and its related industries so that if the Hon. Member survives the next election, he might become educated about the facts of life of people who do not work in the expensive industries in his riding. There are others in his riding that are not expensive, but he is probably not aware of them.

What I am asking for is simply a committee to monitor and follow the fate of what is happening to the people in the garment and textile and footwear industry and in other

industries like the computer service industry in which the Chairman of the Canadian Independent Computer Service Association estimates that there are already over 200,000 jobs lost and that the loss could go 300,000 jobs higher than that.

It is worth keeping track of several hundred thousand jobs so that we know what we will have to do to find these better paid jobs for those people who the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary wants us to dream about.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I want to speak particularly to Motion No. 19. This motion would delete Clause 9 which would give the federal Government the authority it needs to impose the wine and spirits chapter of the agreement on the provinces. I and my Party believe that Clause 9 should be opposed, in fact that the whole agreement should be opposed, on the grounds that it allows the federal Government to enter unilaterally into provincial jurisdiction.

● (1810)

The Mulroney Government has boasted about how it has created a new era of federal-provincial co-operation and understanding. Yet, through this trade deal with the United States it turns around and unilaterally attempts to intrude in a way the provinces, especially the Province of Ontario, are not willing to accept in an essential area of provincial jurisdiction. This is a strange way to carry out, in a more meaningful and effective way, co-operation between federal and provincial governments. As is the case in so many matters, the Government has been saying one thing but doing another.

In short, Motion 19 not only allows the federal Government to intrude unilaterally into provincial jurisdiction but upsets, as a result, the federal-provincial balance and, above all, sacrifices the Canadian grape and wine industry. It is not only the farmers who grow the grapes who are sacrificed but the thousands of people who work with them during harvest and the thousands of people who manufacture the machinery and supplies they use and sell them to the grape growers of Ontario and British Columbia primarily.

If this deal goes ahead it will, as I have said, sacrifice the Canadian grape and wine industry. It has been estimated that some 20,000 direct and indirect jobs connected with the wine industry will be sacrificed in Ontario alone and thousands more will be sacrificed in British Columbia. That is another case of the Government saying one thing and doing another. The Government has boasted unduly about the jobs that have been created since it came into power. It has not made clear exactly what it has done to create those jobs and I do not think the creation of those jobs has very much to do with the policies of the Government. In fact, we see an example in this trade deal of how the policies of the Government are not creating jobs but destroying them, not by the hundreds but by the thousands.

A spokesperson for Bright's Wines of Canada best summarized the wine provisions of the agreement on the CBC television program *Venture* last August 15. He said that