

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

**Mr. Langdon:** If there is not unanimous consent—

**Mr. Mazankowski:** There is not unanimous consent.

**Mr. Barrett:** That is what we want to know. Jackboot government, that is what you are.

**Mr. Langdon:** If I could respond—

**Mr. Barrett:** The Government brings in closure and then will not let the Hon. Members speak on top of it. That is jackboot government.

**Mr. Langdon:** Let me respond, if I could, to the speech of one and three-quarter hours by the Minister, and slightly longer by the Liberal critic, although the Liberals have been willing to accept a slight extension of my comments by making a number of final points.

First, one of the points the Minister made this morning is absolutely and directly inaccurate. He suggested that hospitals in Canada were government-owned. In fact, only 13 per cent of hospitals are actually owned by provinces. A further 41 per cent are owned by non-profit corporations. A significant portion of hospitals, in excess of 5 per cent, are owned by profit-making corporations. That is a reality the Minister should bear in mind.

**Mr. McDermid:** What is the point?

**Mr. Langdon:** I want to make one brief comment with respect to the Auto Pact that the Minister once again trotted out. I would have thought that dead horse was one that even this Minister would have ceased riding. The reality of the Auto Pact is that the conditions which exist within it make it something completely different from the Free Trade Agreement we are discussing today.

I wish to conclude with some final pledges on behalf of our Party. First, I want to say to the United States that it may feel that it has succeeded in capturing what it wanted from Canada. There will be at least one Party in the House of Commons that will watch every step the United States takes, every pressure which it exerts on Canada, and will fight for Canada at every stage, despite what the United States might wish to do.

I wish to make a second pledge. We as a Party may have lost this battle. However, Members on the Government side of the House should understand that the fight continues. As a Party we believe in an independent Canada, unlike either the Liberals or the Conservatives when they are in office. I believe that this must be a central fight and a central commitment for our Party.

Another pledge I want to make on behalf of our Party is that we shall watch-dog the Government as closely and completely as we can, and as relentlessly as possible, to protect our country and our people as the negotiations take place with respect to subsidies, and as the Government enters into harmonization discussions which can harm so much of our economy.

The fourth pledge that I wish to make is that this Party shall fight as hard as possible for the victims of this deal. Whether or not the Prime Minister wishes to believe that there are such victims, there will be, and they must be protected. As a country we have always done so in the past when we put trade changes into effect, and for us not to do so this time is shameful.

Finally, I want to say that, in my view, ultimately Canadians must decide in more than this election about the trade deal. I accept the fact that they have voted to give the trade deal a try. That is the nature of our parliamentary democracy. Despite the fact that only two provinces gave majorities to the Government, that is enough to give the Government the capacity to put this deal into effect.

Canadians have voted to give this deal a try, but they will also vote in an election or in some other from to give this deal a judgment when it has been tried for some period of time. I suspect that that judgment will come after many of the problems which we on the Opposition side of the House have identified as certain to flow from the trade deal.

I believe that those problems will come, and the judgement of the Canadian people will take place on the basis of the deal, on the basis of the problems, and not on the basis of the millions of dollars which big business poured into the last election campaign. Ultimately, the people of Canada will win, and I believe that it will be the New Democratic Party which will represent that victory by the people of Canada over corporate capitalism as typified in this deal. That is the reality of the future.

• (1710)

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

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Members of the House for their vigorous participation in this very important debate, and I thank them for the courtesy of listening to me speak very briefly to an issue that has been quite thoroughly debated in this House of Commons. In fact, as of December 12, 1988, I am informed, the Free Trade