

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Therefore, I am going to, just as a favour to my friend from Essex—Windsor, read something out of the householder he sends to his constituents. There are the answers to Canadian's trade problems; this is what the NDP is going to do. This is its policy from its trade critic. "First, we have to get an election and defeat the Mulroney Government".

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McDermid: That is number one. He is going to get the election but that is not going to be the result, I can assure him of that. "Second, we have to push Premier Peterson of Ontario whose Liberal Government has not fought the deal the way he promised". That is the second plank in the NDP platform. They are going to go to the Liberals to help out in Ontario.

"Third, we have to stress our New Democratic counter policies to replace the deal". Here they are: No. 1 full employment, whatever the hell that means; No. 2, plans to build our industrial economy on a wider high-tech basis—where are the plans; No. 3, making full use of our farm and energy resources for the future. Full use of our energy resources, isn't that interesting?

Here is a good one: "working out our trade disputes with the U.S. directly". Isn't that marvellous? He just stood up and knocked the new dispute mechanism, and he says that it is a terrible thing but "we are going to settle these disputes with the U.S. directly".

Next is finding areas where our two countries can make sector agreements like the Auto Pact with safeguards for Canada. Isn't that great? They tried to reach sectoral agreements and got one sectoral agreement in 23 years. What nonsense. How do you expect the Canadian people to buy that?

● (1850)

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, there are several points I would like to make. I appreciate the opportunity, although I would have appreciated it had the Member just asked the question.

[*Translation*]

There are two points I want to stress here. We have an agreement that will radically change this country but we did not get any of the things the Government felt were necessary. These included, first of all, an exemption from countervail laws. That is something we did not get. Second, an agreement on the matter of support for Canadian industries. There again we did not succeed. Third, we have no guaranteed access to the U.S. market under the agreement. Furthermore, we have lost the freedom to organize our own energy program, to screen takeovers of Canadian companies by U.S. companies and to protect Canada's agriculture.

Mr. McDermid: That is not true.

Mr. Langdon: It is. We have also lost the freedom to organize our own health care system. That is true as well. And

we have lost the freedom to protect Canada's cultural industries. We have an agreement that is not equitable and that must be rejected.

[*English*]

The alternatives to that accord are quite clearly set out and have been set out for months in the book which my colleague, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie), and I prepared entitled *A Time to Choose Canada*. We said that it was important to start to look for domestic investment in a way that the Government had not recognized.

We saw, for instance, that it did not make sense for interest rates to go up as rapidly as they were, especially when the spread with the United States was at record highs. We saw, as well, that it was important to have a community development basis from which investment could flow. We saw that it was also important to be able to make use of the energy and resources we have in order to provide a basis on which to build our industries and encourage investment. We saw that it is crucial, as well, to increase research and development, something which the Government promised and never delivered on. It promised to double research and development and has not even come close.

We stressed regional diversification in our document because we must get away from the golden horseshoe as the basis for prosperity in this country. There must be a serious effort to try to diversify investment and that will not happen through free trade. Free trade, in fact, will concentrate investment in Ontario around the golden horseshoe just as there are concentrated investment and serious poverty in many parts of the United States. Skill development is also crucial, especially for older workers and for threatened industries.

As well as sector agreements we need issue agreements. We need, for instance, to get what the Government has failed to get, that is, a joint agreement between Canada and the United States on what constitutes a subsidy.

Mr. McDermid: That's what negotiations are for.

Mr. Langdon: Yes, but the Government failed to get it.

Mr. McDermid: We haven't even started negotiating yet.

Mr. Langdon: It failed to get it in this whole long, sorry set of negotiations.

Mr. McDermid: Get serious.

Mr. Langdon: It is also important that we have better bilateral relations with the United States on a case-by-case basis. I think that if we had spent much less time chasing this pie in the sky, comprehensive free trade deal and concentrated on softwood, pork, stainless steel, and fish, we would have been able to solve those disputes much more effectively. We would not now be facing the damage from each of those disputes which we are facing.