

Statements by Ministers

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1140)

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Americans are already gleefully saying: "We have secured our resources forever. We have Canada up there, do not worry about the Middle East any more, do not worry about these problems, we have our good friends sewed up forever. We have made Canada a hinterland, a storehouse for our resources. We have turned Canada into a satellite of resources".

We have always tried to resist being seen as hewers of wood and drawers of water, and the Government has returned us to the status of hewers of wood and drawers of water.

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, let us turn to agriculture. We have not much time but you will give me the time, I am sure. Agriculture and marketing boards, this Government said they would not be touched. The Prime Minister said they would not be touched. He said that agriculture was sacrosanct, that no changes would be made.

The Wheat Board is in jeopardy. Two-price wheat may be gone. The inability of the Wheat Board to manage import licensing strikes at the very powers of the Wheat Board. Tariffs moving to zero in agriculture means that supply management could be out of the window.

So here we have the family farm in jeopardy. The family farm is struggling under the lowest commodity prices in recent times, and this Government sacrifices the Canadian farmer to make itself look good.

This Government has also accepted the principle of the Western Grain Transportation Act being an export-related subsidy. We are now open to challenge on the movement of grain to our ports and to American ports. Every other country will now challenge the basis of our freight rates.

Culture was another area the Government said it would not touch, but it has made changes. Again, Mr. Yeutter says Canada has agreed that the cultural measures it takes will not impair the benefits the United States would otherwise expect from the provisions of this agreement. What does that mean? It looks like a Mack truck clause to me, you can drive anything through that.

What are we giving away besides differential postal rates favouring Canadian periodicals, tariffs on print and recording and publishing? What else have we given away? How about our film industry? It is clear that Time Incorporated is back taking over Canadian culture.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, this agreement in principle is bound to play havoc with Canada's employment market. We simply must provide adjustment programs designed for the workers who will be affected. Where are the adjustment programs to

protect underprivileged regions or workers who will be shifted right out of their jobs as a result of this agreement?

[*English*]

We have yielded too much. The concessions are too deep. Our economic independence has been threatened. Our sovereignty as Canadians has been diminished. We have lost the ability to control and manage our own economy. Why? Because the Prime Minister and the Government were too anxious for the deal. They went into this deal unprepared. They had no plan. They had no agenda.

Before the negotiations, the Government gave away the Foreign Investment Review Act. It really did a job on that one. The National Energy Program, softwood lumber, drug prices, publishing, all this was given away in the course of the agreement in the final *coup de grâce* to the economic independence of this country.

[*Translation*]

We have already made a good many concessions, Mr. Speaker, enough to jeopardize our economic independence. We have already dropped the Foreign Investment Review Agency, our national energy policy, lumber, drugs.

Mr. Speaker, we do not want Canada to become a satellite of the United States. We want a full parliamentary debate as soon as we lay our hands on the official documents. We want a committee to travel from coast to coast and listen to what Canadians have to say. We want to study the substance and form, the principles and the fine print, clause by clause, of this deal with the Americans.

[*English*]

The Prime Minister had no mandate for a comprehensive free trade agreement with the United States. Indeed, all his past pronouncements, particularly those made when he was running for the leadership of his Party, were against the free trade arrangement because he was worried about Canadian sovereignty. He was right then. He should have stuck with his instincts and intuition. He has now become the architect of the yielding in the most massive way possible of our sovereignty as an independent nation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Canadians will want us to look closely at this arrangement. We want a parliamentary committee to study it carefully. We want Canadians consulted from one end of Canada to another. We want a thorough clause-by-clause analysis.

This process will not be hurried because Canadians have no idea yet, after just a preliminary glance, what they have really lost as a nation. What is the regional impact of this Accord? What is the future impact of this Accord? We will want to know what jobs, what companies, what regions will be hurt in this arrangement, because throughout this debate, throughout these negotiations, the Government has talked about benefits