

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Funk: The first people to realize that were the voters in my constituency where the Conservative candidate only got 26 per cent of the vote running on this Government's policies.

Let me now turn to the reasons why a majority in every sector of that constituency rejected the trade deal, rejected this Republican version of Canada's future.

First, there are agricultural producers in my riding. I think it is quite clear by now that the Canadian Wheat Board is under threat. The farmers are not reassured by the wimpy response to Clayton Yeutter which they got from the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) who I think is also doubling as the trade commissioner for the State of Georgia. Then, there are supply management programs and all the stabilization programs, crop insurance, and so on. Certainly, they are not attacked directly.

Farmers in my constituency see this as a gradual erosion of all the things that are there to protect the family farms, a takeover of our Canadian agricultural industry by interests that are promoting corporate farming and an agri-business approach to farming. Our family farmers recognize that. They rejected it.

In the City of Prince Albert it was very clear to the people who work there that the reason the big business lobby was so interested, so excited about seeing this trade deal come through was that it meant two things: lower wages and less benefits. The people in Prince Albert had seen, too, what happened when our assets fell into the hands of foreign owners. The pulp mill in Prince Albert had been taken over just prior to the election, had in fact been given away by the Saskatchewan Government to Weyerhaeuser Corporation from the United States.

What happened in the year that followed that takeover? The small producers, the people who had made their living in the bush, and the native communities lost their place in the forest industry of Saskatchewan. People had seen that happen and they rejected it.

Then there were our social programs. Earlier this evening we heard from the Minister of deindexation of pensions, a gentleman for whom I do have some respect in that I share a common heritage with him. People were not reassured by that because look what happened.

First, we saw this Free Trade Agreement. As I was reading through it—I did read it; I read it four times—I got to page 204 under Services and there are some very

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

innocuous looking numbers about what is affected by this deal. In order to find out what that was, one had to find standard industrial classification numbers set out in Statistics Canada's Standard Industrial Classification, Fourth Edition, put out by the Department of Supply and Services in 1980. That is not an easy job to do in Prince Albert because our library does not have those documents, so I wrote to the Government for its information. I got a nice glossy brochure on services.

Was there a word about what was in these indexes? No. What is in those indexes? Those numbers refer to hospitals, general hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, extended care hospitals, mental hospitals, and so on. That is why the people of this constituency have no confidence in the Government's ability to protect our social programs.

Then we turn to the effect of the free trade deal on the people of the North. I want to pay tribute and compliment the Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Ms. Blondin) on her eloquent remarks.

In this regard I would like to point out that I almost jumped out of my chair and asked to be heard on a question of privilege when I heard the Deputy House Leader the other day refer to the fact that they held committee hearings and essentially nobody came.

I would like to tell the Hon. Members here that on July 7 I wrote to that committee as a private businessman, as the owner of Spruce River Research which had done a lot of work in northern Saskatchewan, wishing to appear before that committee to ask questions about things such as secondary benefits from non-renewable resources, development of integrated economy through regional development programs, development of a functional infrastructure, protection of northern ecology, the evolution of self-government and the importance of the safety net.

Did I hear back? Did I get to appear? They said that there was all kinds of time when nobody was there to speak. I did hear back. I heard back 10 days after the committee hearings ended in a letter which stated that there were so many people who wanted to appear and that they did not have a chance to hear these concerns about northern Saskatchewan.

I want to raise now a few of the points that I had planned to raise before that committee. One was with respect to the whole question of the processing of resources. We have heard a lot about how we are going to have secondary benefits and how our resources are going to be processed. In northern Saskatchewan we