

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

**Mr. McDermid:** Oh, get out.

**Mr. Broadbent:** He does not like this argument.

**Mr. McDermid:** Just because they are 10 times bigger, we cannot compete?

**Mr. Broadbent:** Why should an American citizen living in California or Maine or Georgia, someone who has a very different belief system than we have in Canada, ever democratically accept Canadian rules?

**Mr. McDermid:** You have no faith in Canadians.

**Mr. Broadbent:** I can tell the Minister, if I were an American, if I had that typical belief system and I knew that we outnumbered Canadians 10 to 1, I would never accept Canada's definition of what constitutes a subsidy, and I say to the Government: you should never have gotten us into this position.

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** I say to the Minister and to other Members in the House, New Democrats—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Where is the Minister? Where is he?

**Mr. Broadbent:** Well, in fairness to this particular Minister, he explained to me why he is not here, and in fairness to him, there was a legitimate reason. That may not be the case for the Prime Minister who almost never turned up for serious debate in the previous Parliament. He is showing a remarkable consistency by not turning up for this important debate.

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New Democrats will never give up the fight to keep our regional development programs secure, because we believe fundamentally as a matter of principle that regional equality is essential to our vision of Canada. As someone has already alluded in this discussion, we finally have that entrenched in the Constitution. We will not accept the possibility of an American definition overturning our regional development programs because we believe and believe with passion that a young person growing up in Cape Breton or in the interior of British Columbia, as I have said many times, ought to have the same opportunities for development as a kid growing up in Dalhousie.

I say also that New Democrats who first fought for pensions and first established medicare will never stop fighting to preserve our social policy tradition of contemporary Canada. New Democrats who have led the fight for a healthy environment in recent years will continue to fight for the definition of a subsidy that will

continue to provide, if we want, governmental intervention in the economy to ensure that the environment is protected.

For all of these reasons, Mr. Speaker, a New Democratic Party government, if it had been elected this time, would have given the six-month notice and got us right out of that deal. In the meantime, we are now dealing with a Government that has a mandate and will get this legislation passed at some time.

I have already talked about the important human need for legislation to protect workers affected in certain other concerns, but we have also said that what we have to get established is an independent committee here in the House with members from all Parties to act as our watch-dog in the years ahead, and it should not be a subcommittee of the External Affairs and International Trade Committee.

I saw the wording which the Minister of Trade used. He suggested that perhaps the Government would consider the hypothetical possibility of establishing a subcommittee of the External Affairs Committee which could obtain reports from the Government and then provide reports to the House of Commons.

We want, on such an important matter, something that will go to the root of what this country is all about. As Ronald Reagan well understood, we do not want a committee that is directly responsible to the government of the day. We want to see established a monitoring committee, an independent committee of this House, to monitor what will go on over the next five to seven years and to make regular reports to the Parliament of Canada so that we can see what is going on.

In conclusion I want to say the following: we in this country of ours have created a unique nation on the northern half of this continent with quite distinct Canadian values and traditions. Canadians have a commitment not simply to individual rights. We have that, but we also have a solid commitment to the idea of community rights. We as a nation believe in a mixed economy. We believe in a healthy viable private sector, but we also believe in entities in the economy like Petro-Canada, CN, and Air Canada. We believe not simply as a matter of second choice or the worst of all options after everything else fails should you move into the public sector; but we believe—and a majority of Canadians have come to believe it—that there is a legitimate role for the private sector and a legitimate role for the public sector in the Canadian economy.