

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

or brakes. The strangest thing of all is that this Government has bought that car.

During the election campaign, I knocked on thousands of doors in my riding. The overwhelming message that I kept receiving from the people to whom I talked was that this deal has got to go, we do not trust this Government with our future, we love our country, and we do not want to see Canada Americanized.

The people in northern Ontario are a tough bunch. The climate is not the most hospitable. As a matter of fact, White River has had the coldest temperature in Canada, and that was -72F. We have come there to work and we are good workers. We have stayed and we have built ourselves strong communities of which we are proud. We are proud to raise our children in the North. We are proud to raise them as Canadians. We have fine traditions and community spirit and are tolerant of others.

These values are valuable, but for our communities to survive and flourish, we have to keep our economic base strong. We cannot survive government policies which throw us into the deep end just to see if we will sink or swim. In this deal, we as a country have given up far too much and have received far too little in return.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I too would like to take the opportunity to thank my constituents who voted for me on November 21, 1988 and also to thank all my colleagues who were elected. Now we Conservatives are the only party in Canada to represent all parts of this great country. The other parties have become much more regional. So congratulations to all our colleagues who were elected. Thanks to those who put their trust in us and who appreciated our management over the last four years.

I now want to stick to today's subject, namely the new debate on free trade that has been made necessary because the Liberal and socialist politicians have not kept their word. We are forced to start over what we spent months on. We discussed free trade here for 350 hours, but we have to start again, Mr. Speaker, because they do not keep their word.

So, once and for all, what does free trade mean, so that Canadians can understand it exactly? Where does free trade fit in? What does it mean for the 27 million Canadians who live here? What does it mean for the 12 million Canadians between 30 and 65 who are in the labour force, who work, compared to younger Canadians, to older Canadians on pension, to Canadians who

cannot work because of certain circumstances like illness or injury?

Twelve million Canadians work and what they produce every year is called the Gross National Product. In 1987, it was \$500 billion. That is the sum total of Canadian products. It includes a pencil, a piece of paper, an automobile and an airplane. It includes medical services which are provided each time a health insurance card is used. All that amounts to \$500 billion. And Canadians export one-quarter of that—that is \$125 billion of Canadian goods and services. That means that 3 million jobs out of 12 million, one out of four, are linked to exports. But it goes further than that—84 per cent of Canadian exports go to the United States, in other words \$95 billion of our exports go to the United States. This means that in Canada one Canadian out of five has a job because we are able to sell in the United States. This is what the Free Trade Agreement is all about. It means work for one out of five Canadians who are now employed, because we sell to the United States.

• (1850)

What parts of Canada do those goods originate from? There are \$60 billion out of \$95 billion—a significant proportion—\$60 billion that come from Ontario, a province that fought free trade, especially the Liberals—Ontario Liberals opposed free trade. Well, their share of our total \$95 billion worth of exports to the United States is \$60 billion.

The second largest exporting province is Quebec, with \$16 billion. You see the difference—\$60 billion's worth of exports to the United States come from Ontario, as against \$16 billion's worth coming from Quebec, and another \$19 billion from all the other provinces together.

What province fought free trade? Ontario. Ontario Liberals, who paid for part of the Liberal Party of Canada's election campaign.

And why was that Agreement needed? It was needed because since 1985 the Americans, faced with an enormous trade deficit, were becoming very protectionist—they were blocking, restricting their purchases from other countries. And as suppliers to the United States, we were affected. Then there were some disputes. For instance, all Canadians heard of the difficulties encountered by a number of producers—hog, hog carcasses, fish, shingles and shakes producers. In each and every case the Americans said: Now, let us restrict those Canadian exports. Let us put up barriers, temporary tariffs, temporary taxes, red tape hassles.