

Statements he makes on the subject, almost without exception, are fundamentally untrue.

It seems to me that Canadian citizens would have to ask themselves where is the defence of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) to this statement? How can anyone call anyone else—a word I cannot use in this Chamber—in our society without having this slanderous statement pursued through the courts? Where has this pursuit been? I have not seen it. I have not heard it and, therefore, I can only conclude that the statements contained in this newspaper article, effectively, are true. In the event that someone may be under the mistaken impression that the New Democratic Party is exempt from these tactics, let me quote from another article I have entitled “Liberals and NDP wrong about trade deal: Canadian Federation of Labour”. It goes on to state:

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has won an unexpected backing from the Canadian Federation of Labour for his charge that opposition Parties are misleading voters about free trade in the federal election campaign. Federation President Jim McCambly said the Liberals and New Democrats are suggesting things that are simply not true in their attacks against the free trade pact with the United States.

If industry and media are making these kinds of statements and telling Canadians that the Liberals and the NDP are telling the public things which are not true, are saying to the public that people are doing things that I cannot say in this Chamber, making statements that are fundamentally untrue, who are the public to believe? The Free Trade Agreement has claimed to be or will be responsible for everything from bad weather to mongolism.

The Opposition went on to say that this agreement would motivate Americans to take over our hospitals and make a profit, that we would have a two-tier health system, one for the rich and one for the poor, but we already have hospitals and health care services in Canada that turn a profit. In Ontario alone there are 16 such private profit making hospitals including Hawkesbury. Some are even owned by Americans. Extendicare, a private facility in Saskatchewan and Canada, operates more than 100 high level care homes for senior citizens.

While we are speaking of private profitable health services there is one that operates in the backyard of the Leader of the New Democratic Party with the full knowledge and support of the New Democratic Party, I trust. No, sir, I do not know what kind of deal they have made with Dr. Morgentaler.

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Let us talk about why we entered this trade deal, what is in it for us, and why we should enter into a long-term contract to trade with our closest friend and neighbour. Why is it so important now that 80 per cent of our trade is already tariff-free? We entered the agreement for two reasons. We wanted to assure access to the United States for our goods and we wanted exemption from protectionism.

The Free Trade Agreement gives us both. The Free Trade Agreement places the two countries on more of a level playing field for our goods and theirs. It makes us more competitive. It tears down the barriers that inhibit trade. It gives us guaranteed and full market access to a market of 250 million people. Without it we would be the only country in the developed world without an ensured market of at least 100 million people. We would be left out in the cold. Tariffs are not the only form of protectionism. There are quotas, technical barriers, and other artificial irritants at the border.

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This agreement eliminates many of these barriers and gives us a binding dispute mechanism to deal with those that are left. Some of the Canadian and American countervail and anti-dumping laws remain intact with the Free Trade Agreement, however we are now equal partners in settling disputes and have a mechanism to deal with them fairly, quickly, and impartially.

On the other hand, any new U.S. trade legislation must be submitted to Canada for formal inspection and negotiation, with the trade deal itself on the line. This was a landmark concession given to Canada by a country which always holds its cards close to its chest.

Perhaps, most important, the Free Trade Agreement exempts us from the omnibus Trade Bill. That is a frightening piece of protectionist legislation passed by the American Congress that imposes quotas and tariffs on other countries which export to the United States. If any American industry thinks that a foreign export is injuring it in any way, the President and the Congress of the United States are mandated to impose a penalty that is a quota or a tariff, unilaterally, to protect that American industry. The Free Trade Agreement gives us an exemption to the omnibus trade Bill.

The Liberals say that they believe in free trade, but that they do not believe in this deal. What would they replace it with? First, they say that they would modernize and strengthen GATT, and amend the mechanism within GATT for reaching decisions. GATT is a 96-Member agreement. How can we, as one country,