

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Mr. McDermid: I have seen you in debate before.

Mr. Axworthy: The day that Minister actually takes some action against the Americans will be a miracle. It will make the three wise men going to Bethlehem pale by comparison simply because it will never happen. It will never happen.

Mr. Boyer: Terrible analogy.

Ms. Dobbie: Listen to the Messiah.

Mr. McDermid: Pink Lloyd.

Mr. Axworthy: We have never seen one example of that Minister or his Government standing up. Not on shakes and shingles, softwood lumber, pharmaceuticals, film distribution or cultural industries. Not once.

Mrs. Finestone: They got knee-capped.

Mr. Axworthy: They could not be knee-capped, they were on their knees. They got hit in another vulnerable part of their anatomy. I can understand why the Minister for International Trade said this morning he has an aversion to cucumbers. I fully understand why he said that. He spent too much time sort of pulling them out of various—oh, well, that is enough.

Mr. Boyer: That was going nowhere.

Mr. McDermid: You stopped just in time on that one.

Mr. Axworthy: We recognize very clearly that the horizons of this country, its ability to really play a mature role, will be snuffed out. You cannot integrate yourself economically and socially and not begin to integrate yourself politically.

Mr. McDermid: Here we go! The American hordes are coming over the 49th parallel.

Mr. Axworthy: I read a famous old text written by a great conservative philosopher, George Grant, called *Lament For a Nation*. He talked about continentalism and its impact upon this country. He talked about foreign ownership. He is not a Liberal. The Tories love to trot out Don Macdonald. I am trotting out George Grant. He is probably one of the most fascinating and interesting and fertile minds in the history of this country. He even happened to be a Tory.

Last summer, before Mr. Grant succumbed to cancer, which we all regret, he had lunch with the Leader of our Party. Guess who Mr. Grant supported in the trade debate? The author of *Lament For A Nation* said: "I

lament for my country even more in 1988 than I did back in 1964". He could see it dying on the vine. He understood what it all meant. He understood that the modern Mulroney Party no longer believes in the traditions of the Progressive Conservative Party that used to stand up for Canada. Under the leadership of people like John Diefenbaker and others, it knew what independence meant. He was not always right but he certainly knew what it meant. This particular crowd has no understanding of that concept. They have no ability to meet that kind of question.

What they are doing in this trade agreement opens the door to continentalism such that we will never be able to recover if it goes ahead.

Ms. Dobbie: The removal of trade barriers? Come on, Lloyd.

Mr. Axworthy: The Hon. Member for Winnipeg South (Ms. Dobbie) is once again showing her deep knowledge of the agreement. She is saying we are just taking down a few tariffs. That is all that is in the agreement, she says. Madam Speaker, Exhibit A is the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. I recommend it to the reading of the Hon. Member. She could probably get some help from the Minister of Trade who today admitted that he had begun reading it.

• (1610)

The Hon. Member has said that this is a matter of reducing a few tariffs, or words to that effect. Why is there Chapter Nine on energy with a whole series of changes to the National Energy Board and to the rules regarding the pricing mechanism? What does that have to do with energy?

There is another interesting chapter on investment. Somehow investment has now become tariffs.

Here is another part of the agreement. It is entitled "Financial Services". It deals with the application of national treatment toward banks, trust companies and credit unions. There is no protection at all under the rules for them. There are new negotiations opening up for inclusion on the list. This is the Hon. Member who prides herself, as a former President of the Chamber of Commerce, on really understanding business. Yet she does not know what is in the agreement. She does not have the slightest idea. She has not even read the index yet. She has not bothered with the fact that it relates to about 101 other items not dealing with tariffs.