

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

We will be able to diversify, build up our secondary industry and make our region's economy stronger and more stable. The Free Trade Agreement is a good agreement for northern Ontario. As I pointed out, it is a good agreement for stability and continued development in northern Ontario.

As a Canadian I see this agreement as a good one. For a country which has three-quarters of its exports going south, this agreement has taken steps to deal with the threats of American protectionism. We have sought and got better and more secure access to the United States. No longer will we have the threat of protectionist trade measures hanging over our heads. The door to the American market will never again be shut to us.

This Free Trade Agreement offers our nation a more secure relationship with our neighbors. We can plan into the future, strengthening and diversifying our economy, and in turn strengthening and securing our social programs and the very fabric of our country.

Mr. Speaker, may I finish my remarks by saying that from Sir John A. Macdonald's determination of stretching our horizons west by rail, to John George Diefenbaker's Roads to Resources policy to develop the northern regions of our land, the Progressive Conservative Party and the Progressive Conservative Government has always presented the people of Canada with a vision of the future of our country. It has always been a Party to build upon the strengths of our land and our people. I am very proud to be part of the Progressive Conservative Government which later this week will once again provide a better, stronger country for all Canadians, one that can grow and prosper for centuries to come.

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to enter this debate following another person from northern Ontario. I grew up there. I was trying to recall where he must have grown up as compared to where I grew up.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Under a rock.

Mr. Walker: The problem is there are no rocks any more.

● (0020)

If there is one part of the country whose politicians should be opposing the free trade deal, it is in northern Ontario where one multinational company after another has ravaged the area. That is where acid rain began. There is no protection left at all for northern Ontario.

Yet that Member stands up to talk about it. Shame on him. The best thing he can do is put it in his householder so his constituents can read it. There will be no need for an election next time because you are history.

The Tories have been talking about majorities during this debate. Let us talk about majorities in Winnipeg. When we talk about a majority in Winnipeg, we are talking about Liberals. To use Tory logic, I am now speaking for Winnipeg and I want to explain why people from Winnipeg are opposed to free trade. They oppose it because it is destroying the economy of the city.

During the entire campaign the *Winnipeg Free Press* stated that concern about free trade was only negative thinking. One business leader after another encouraged support for free trade because it would be great for Winnipeg. The headline in the *Free Press* this weekend stated: "No New Jobs in Winnipeg for 1989". Once you remove all the rhetoric from the campaign you are left with nothing for the workers in Winnipeg, no new funds or investment.

The Opposition also likes to talk about how we are negative thinkers. Where is their game plan for the future of Winnipeg? They do not have one.

Winnipeg built its reputation throughout the world as a world trader. Whether one talks about grain, the garment industry or finance, Winnipeg is a fantastic city of traders. The Government is saying we do not need the protection of the Wheat Board and is removing it. They are telling us not to worry about jobs in the garment manufacturing industry. Who is going to speak for those 7,000 workers? Those are real jobs. It is not a question of negative thinking. It is a question of people's lives that are at stake. Someone has to stand up and try to protect them.

We have been told that we are going back to the principles of the debate which have already been settled. During the campaign the Conservatives kept saying they would protect workers. Where is that protection? If there has been one thing totally fraudulent on that side of the House it is the protection of workers.

While the Conservatives keep asking Canadians to trust them, they take 32 per cent of the funding for job creation in Winnipeg. There has been no money in the city.

We are told to stop going over old debates, but that is what we must do to protect workers. While we may ask