

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Collins: Why do we need free trade? Again, I think we have to look at the global perspective. Where is the world going? We can no longer afford trade barriers.

I had the opportunity, thanks to our very kind Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie), to be an observer at the GATT meetings in Montreal recently. Those were very, very difficult meetings. Perhaps we were not able to get everything we wanted, but as I talked to my colleagues from the American Senate and Congress, from the Japanese Diet, and from the European Economic Community, I found that there was a recognition that things had to change, slowly in some areas, perhaps, but with the increasing globalization of the economy we cannot have artificial trade barriers.

Obviously GATT is one mechanism through which we can reduce artificial trade barriers, but as we all know, it is a very slow and ponderous mechanism involving 100 countries. To try to get consensus among 100 countries is extremely difficult.

The Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement is an example of how two countries together can do away with artificial trade barriers and each country can win. I see this agreement as being a win-win situation for both countries. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) spoke a little while ago about the Australia-New Zealand trade agreement. We know what has happened with that agreement. My colleague, the former chairman of the finance committee, was in New Zealand earlier this year. New Zealand is growing and prospering and in fact is accelerating the reduction in tariffs and trade barriers between the two countries. We know that this will be an example for the future. If we are not a part of that change, we might as well go back and be like the Opposition, the Luddites who tore up the looms at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution and were afraid of change.

We are now at the brink of a transformation in our own society, a more global society, and we have to be leaders in that new kind of society. Of course this means adjustments, of course it means some will fail and some will prosper. However, those are adjustments that we have to make as a society if we are to grow ahead rather than creep behind the curtains of protectionism.

In my own riding my people are getting ready for this. That is what we should all be doing. We should be helping the industries and the entrepreneurs to get ready for the FTA. I saw an advertisement on television

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

recently about the new common market of 1992, preparing the business people of France and Germany for that. We need to do that. There are some changes in thinking which business people will have to make to be prepared for this.

When I have spoken to some of the business people in Vancouver, I have found that they are very excited about the prospects of free trade. Not too long ago, during the election campaign, I had dinner with a gentleman who is the president of a cheese company. I thought that he might have a problem, that cheese might be a little difficult. This man makes the finest quality Italian cheeses and sells them under a variety of labels. He is so excited about the prospects of selling in the United States. As those import quotas come down, he knows that he will have a market for his cheeses. He has written to me and sent me all this information and he is gung ho about it.

Hon. Members may notice that the women in this House are extremely fashionably dressed these days. We all like to wear Canadian designer clothes. One of the best Canadian designers, Mr. Jax, is in Vancouver. We are all familiar with Mr. Jax clothing. It is high quality women's clothing. Mr. Jax has not had access to the California market because of high tariffs. He too is excited because as those tariffs come down, he knows that he has a quality product that he can sell in the United States.

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The list goes on. The people in the electronic industries and the computer industries and the business people in my community will not have all those hassles at the border, pretending they are carrying golf-bags instead of business documents when they go to do business in the States. We are excited about those prospects. We just want January 1 to come so we can see the reductions in those tariffs on both sides or the border. Skis and skates being one of the first items on which tariffs come off.

It was really frustrating. Actually it was much more than that. It was dishonest when my colleagues scared the elderly people in my riding and in ridings across the country. They told the elderly that free trade was going in some way to hurt them, hurt their social security and their medicare. I have never seen such a shameful thing in my life.

We all know when you instil fear in people it is very hard to change, particularly in older people. As you get older you become more concerned. You are not perhaps