

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) both before and repeatedly during the campaign assured us that workers affected by the Canadian-American trade agreement would be compensated. Unfortunately, in spite of repeated questioning, the Prime Minister has failed to bring forward any program to substantiate his promises. When you talk about the dislocation of workers and the adjustments required to improve our access to the American markets, you are not talking about academic abstractions, you are talking about people, workers and their families, businessmen who have invested and taken risks, workers who have contributed their labour and their skills. You are talking wages and benefits which have been justly earned.

What the Government will achieve will be achieved for Canadians and Canada. What will be lost will be at the expense of Canada and at the expense of Canadians.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I cannot recognize the Hon. Member for Sarnia—Lambton as he has already spoken in the debate.

Mr. James: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On a question of privilege.

Mr. James: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that I was involved in speaking to another Member and I did not realize that the Hon. Member for Ottawa West (Miss Catterall) was saying some things about women on the farm. I am not taking any lessons from the Hon. Member. My mother is 85 and she feeds the calves yet today. She has worked on the farm. She has dug sugar beets, topped them and picked potatoes. I do not need to take any sort of lesson from the Member for Ottawa West about women working on the farm. In addition to that, there was mention about the kitchen. If the Member knew anything about the farm, she would know that most meetings take place in the kitchen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Resuming debate with the Hon. Member for Cariboo-Chilcotin.

Mr. Dave Worthy (Cariboo—Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, this is the first time I have had an opportunity to address all the Members of the House. I would like to thank the people of Cariboo-Chilcotin who gave me the honour of sending me to this House. If you will allow a pun, Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to be "worthy" of it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Worthy: I represent a population of more than 70,000 people who live in a most beautiful part of Canada. It is 40,000 square miles of plateau nestled between the coast range on the west and the Cariboo range on the east. The powerful and historic Fraser River bisects my riding. Mine is a riding well known for its gold rush and its rodeos. The world famous Gang Ranch even occupies a corner of my riding. There are many things that attract the tourist to the Cariboo—Chilcotin.

The old historic Cariboo Gold Trail winds its way primarily following the Fraser until it reaches the recently restored historic towns of Wells and Barkerville. The rivers and lakes lure thousands of fishermen. Big game hunting is very popular during the fall.

Besides tourism, ranching and mining contribute much to the economy and especially to the lifestyle of Cariboo—Chilcotin. But the primary resource of the Cariboo-Chilcotin, of course, is the forest industry. In fact, the sawmills in my riding produce over 10 per cent of all of the lumber produced in Canada. The forest industry affects either directly or indirectly everybody in the Cariboo. In fact, it affects everyone in British Columbia and I would also say probably everyone in Canada. It is important for all of us to know and understand what the forest industry is saying about the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

Many would have you believe that because of the shingle and shake tariff imposed by the U.S. and the softwood lumber situation, the forest industry is not supportive of the Free Trade Agreement. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is precisely because the industry has been mugged twice already by the protectionists in the United States that it is so strongly in support of the Free Trade Agreement. This industry, better than anyone else in Canada, understands the need for the protection offered by the Free Trade Agreement.

The forest industry in British Columbia is a good industry to look at in terms of free trade. Some would have you believe that we Canadians cannot be competitive when dealing with the United States of America, but that is not true as far as the forest industry is concerned. Nobody in the world can produce lumber like they do in the interior of B.C. No one anywhere can produce as much, as fast or as efficiently. This is so in spite of many adverse conditions that many maintain. Canadians cannot be competitive because of cold weather, because of great distances from the market, because we are highly unionized, we receive high wages