

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

[English]

I was proud to be a Canadian the day after the election. After the campaign of fear that I witnessed, the people collectively pulled together and said: "We do not believe that crap. We are capable Canadians. We shall succeed". I was proud to be a Canadian.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Valcourt: That is what being a Canadian is all about.

On Sunday I was inadvertently watching Question Period and I saw the Right Hon. Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in a nice interview with Pam. There he was in his splendour telling us that he had caught the minds and the hearts of Canadians.

I do not have much experience in this House. I was a Member of Parliament for the first time in the last Parliament, but during this election campaign I had the occasion to visit a senior citizens' home in my riding of Grand Falls. I will never forget what I saw there. I never thought in my life as a young, naive politician, that people would sink so low as to scare poor, insecure people in a senior citizens' home. If, in order to get a vote, you have to get into a senior citizens' home, you have to go see a poor, old lady who is sick and tell her that she is going to lose her pension cheque, you are getting pretty low. That is a new high at being low. The NDP and the Liberals did that. That is what they did.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, I heard earlier a necktied Socialist refer to the Canadian identity. A necktied socialist is something dangerous! He referred to the Canadian identity we were going to be swallowed by those wicked Americans, they were going to strangle us Canadians. I am an Acadian from New Brunswick. I am from Northern New Brunswick, not an area where GM has big plants. The unemployment rate is high. We have fishermen. We have lumbermen. We have plenty of guts. We have farmers. We are Acadians, Francophones, a supposedly minority group in New Brunswick. You see, we Acadians in 1755, were the first to land in America. We came from France. Let me say to my colleagues from Quebec that Champlain, before going to their area, established Port-Royal in our area!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Valcourt: Looking into the Acadian people's history, a working people, a people who had to fight for their most basic rights, we had to fight for our schools,

we had to fight for our hospital system. We had to fight to keep our language, our religion. And to hear a necktied socialist tell us that because we Acadians finally will be able to prosper, have a little money in our pockets, create jobs, we are going to become Americans? No, thank you. No way! We are not Americans. We are and will remain Acadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Valcourt: Mr. Chairman, . . .

[English]

You hear some of the Grits or the socialists talk about the Sale of Canada Act. We have sold Canada.

[Translation]

We sold the country down the river, so they say. I would like to ask him to come down in the Madawaska area. Do you know, Mr. Chairman, how I explained this to people at home? Let me tell you about the great city of Edmundston, the capital city of the Republic of Madawaska. The Republic of Madawaska is our area. In our area, we are next to the American border. Those wicked Americans, we see them every day. We visit. We go and have a beer on their side, they come and have a beer on our side. We fraternize.

In our area, Mr. Chairman, there is a large paper mill. It is now owned by Noranda, those wicked capitalists who create jobs, you know. They employ people.

In our area, there is a large paper mill, and I told everybody—there is a paper mill in our area and there is another one on the other side of the river. Some 800 feet across the river. There are two mills—one on the American side and one on the Canadian side. During the campaign, the socialist candidate and the Liberal candidate were saying: "Free trade is horrible! We are going to lose jobs. This will sell the country down the river."

Well I am telling you that they have been selling off the country for too long, much too long!

Back home I would say to them: Have you ever asked yourselves why in Edmundston . . . You, shut up!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Valcourt: Why do we have a paper mill in Edmundston, a huge paper mill which does not produce any paper? We do not make paper, we make pulp. We harvest our natural resources, our lumber, we take our big beautiful logs on the Verte River, we bring them to the mill, we stir a bit, we make paste and then we ship