

Government Orders

NAYS

Members

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Baker	Barrett
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Benjamin	Berger
Black	Blackburn (Brant)
Blaikie	Blondin—Andrew
Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean)	Boudria
Breugh	Brewin
Butland	Caccia
Campbell (South West Nova)	Catterall
Crawford	Dingwall
Dionne	Duceppe
Duhamel	Edmonston
Finestone	Fisher
Flis	Foster
Fulton	Funk
Gaffney	Gagliano
Gréin	Grey (Beaver River)
Harb	Harvey (Edmonton East)
Heap	Hovdebo
Hunter	Jordan
Karpoff	Keyes
Kilger (Stormont—Dundas)	Kindy
Kristiansen	Langan (Mission—Coquitlam)
Langdon (Essex—Windsor)	Leblanc (Longueuil)
Lee	MacAulay
MacDonald (Dartmouth)	MacLellan
Maheu	Marleau
McCurdy	McGuire
Mifflin	Mitchell
Nault	Nowlan
Nystrom	Pagtakhan
Parker	Plamondon
Proud	Prud'homme
Riis	Rocheleau
Rodriguez	Samson
Simmons	Skelly (North Island—Powell River)
Skelly (Comox—Alberni)	Stewart
Stupich	Tremblay (Rosemont)
Vancielief	Venne
Wappel	Whittaker
Young (Acadie—Bathurst)	Young (Beaches—Woodbine)—88

PAIRED—MEMBERS

Campbell (Vancouver Centre)	Charest
Clark (Yellowhead)	Hopkins
Jelinek	Kaplan
McDougall (St. Paul's)	Milliken
Rompkey	Wood

• (1635)

[Translation]

Madam Deputy Speaker: I declare the motion carried.

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from March 25, 1993, consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that Bill C-115, An Act to implement the North American Free Trade Agreement, be read the second time and referred to a Legislative Committee in the Departmental envelope and the amendment of Mr. MacLaren (p. 17560).

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, my distinguished colleague, the Minister for International Trade, before this House and throughout this nation has made a solid case for the North American Free Trade Agreement. It is the vision and the courage of the Prime Minister, and that of my colleague the Minister for International Trade, and all in our government, that has opened a bold opportunity and a new window for Canada in this hemisphere.

[English]

Let me say at the outset that it is regrettable that our friends on the other side, especially the NDP members, use every trick in the book to try to prevent debate on the real substantial issue of the North American free trade agreement.

I saw last week and earlier today where time was lost on procedural arguments instead of debating the substance about which I am sure Canadians want to hear, that is the NAFTA agreement itself.

• (1640)

[Translation]

This agreement will allow all Canadians to realize the rich potential of the world's largest trading market. It will further a regional alliance which shall grow even further in the future, to include other nations, serving our national interests and those of all others in this hemisphere and all in the global trading system.

Over the last eight years, our government has taken the right steps at the right time, from the outset of our mandate in 1984 to lay the foundations for economic growth. Inflation is beaten back, interest rates are at a 20-year low, exports are surging, and business has become increasingly competitive with our access to the global marketplace. And now we are taking one more step forward in a consistent, coherent, and, yes, courageous way with the North American Free Trade Agreement.

NAFTA will help us improve our economy in two ways: it will create more new and high paying jobs here than any low wage jobs it costs, and it will protect Canada's place in the U.S. marketplace, our most important customer. I especially rise in this debate to address the issue of labour adjustment. That question has become the focus of a great deal of attention, in some ways sidelining other issues which are also of great importance. As Minister of Employment and Immigration, I am aware of the tragedy of unemployment, and the personal trauma of finding that technology has made