Government Orders

country where the ordinary Canadian can go to their MP and can obtain some justice for a cause. That MP can get up and put a question right to the Minister of Justice or to the Prime Minister in full view of the national press. I am afraid we are restricting the rights of parliamentarians more and more.

As I have said, we have had that debate and I regret what the government has done with the rules of Parliament.

Let me say something about the failure of what I said was the economic policy of this government. We are about to get into a free trade deal with Mexico, but Mr. Speaker, I say to you, should we not examine the results of the first free trade deal that we got into with the United States before jumping into an expansion of that deal? We in the NDP do not accept, unlike the Liberal Party, it now seems to me, the premise that a North American free trade deal is inevitable.

Looking at the past deal with the Americans, it seems to me that we have lost 226,000 jobs, investment is down, there is no adjustment program for the workers and, worse still, we have not received secure access to the American market. The Prime Minister himself was complaining about that just last week with regard to the pork dispute, on which we were overruled by the Americans. We must define more clearly the dispute settlement mechanisms in the existing free trade deal before entering a new one.

The Free Trade Agreement is not working. The Americans say that they can just use the extraordinary measures clause, which was included in the agreement only in extraordinary circumstances, like such as corruption or something like that, and now the Americans seem to be using this clause. This is a very serious situation indeed. Let us not jump into a new trade deal without looking into the old one.

We are also concerned about what the real motives of this trade deal are. I want to quote the Leader of the Official Opposition in Mexico, Cuauhtèmoc Càrdenas, who was, in my view, robbed of an election victory by the present President of Mexico in a corrupt election. Here is what Mr. Càrdenas said in a recent speech in Vancouver, British Columbia: "Their free trade agenda is simple and narrow. Mexico will sell its cheap labour to attract foreign capital, which, in turn, will guarantee the survival

of one of the last remaining authoritarian political systems in Latin America".

Mr. Speaker, do you think that it is as the Prime Minister told us, that they are going into the free trade deal to raise the standard of Mexican workers? Not on your life. The Americans want to go into that free trade deal with Mexico for cheap labour. The workers receive about 4 per cent of our wages. They exploit women in these factories on the Mexican–American border. The environmental standards are atrocious. The health and safety standards are atrocious.

We have already seen evidence of companies like General Motors in Canada and General Electric in Canada moving jobs out of Canada as a result of our deal with the Americans, into the Maquiladora free trade zone on the Mexican border. This action is a forerunner of things to come and this is why we should not get into that deal.

One does not have to be a brilliant economist to figure this out. Here is the agenda: the PR, the Mexican governing party, stays in power with its corrupt administration and top-down redistribution of wealth. All the wealth is at the top. The Americans get a low-wage place in which to invest and use American capital and Canada gives its cheap, raw resources. That is why we are seeing the deindustrialization of Canada. So let us not get into this kind of deal. This is going to be a major item on the agenda during the next few months.

I also mentioned another area of economic mismanagement, where the French and Italian companies, backed by the Italian and French governments are about to buy de Havilland. There are 3,000 jobs at stake. Not only that, the continual development of the Dash-7 aircraft, which Canada does so well, and the continual development of high-tech in the aerospace industry, which is one of the high-tech industries that we have and one of the top high-tech industries in the world.

We in the NDP want to see a viable aerospace industry. We have to be realistic and I acknowledge that. We do not want to pour millions of dollars down a hole, but it seems to me that, if there is a takeover by the French companies, backed by their governments, the Canadian government should at least have a share in the new company. It should have what is called "the golden share" so that they can make sure the research and development stays in Canada and can make sure these European companies will not just buy the Toronto