

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

About that time, if I am not mistaken, when these GATT negotiations were in their embryonic stage, there was a young gentleman present by the name of Simon Reisman. He was in a junior position at that time, although it is difficult to imagine Simon Reisman being in a junior position.

In 1965 the two Governments concluded the Auto Pact, which is an important form of sectoral free trade. Again, we had Mr. Reisman, this time in a more prominent role.

Early in this decade the increasingly protectionist atmosphere in the United States threatened Canadian markets again. We know that the Government of Pierre Elliott Trudeau sought ways to attempt to improve this condition. That Government concluded that something more than reliance on GATT was required. We have seen why, because recently in Montreal the GATT process which was espoused by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) proved to be less than adequate. Nonetheless, it was an initiative that was tried at that time.

To return to the evolution of economic progress and the manner in which most economic progress has been marked by the dismantlement or rearrangement of tariff barriers, those of us who remember the 1950s, including the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition no doubt remembers Paul Henry SpOak and his espousal of Benelux when he talked about a United States of Europe. This evolved into the Common Market which is perhaps one of the greatest economic engines of growth that the world has yet seen.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver—Quadra):** You were making a good speech until you got diverted.

**Mr. MacKay:** Nevertheless, diverted or not, I say to my right hon. friend that he has made some commitments that were very much on the record. Perhaps since he is in the Chamber I should remind him of them. On August 30, 1988, as reported in *Hansard*, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition stated:

I am asking them (for) . . . an opportunity to decide. If the Prime Minister wins he can still meet the deadline imposed upon him by the United States of January 1, 1989. I think that is a pretty straightforward proposition. Call an election now. If Canadians vote for the Prime Minister, then he has his trade deal. If Canadians vote for me, there is no trade deal. All I am saying is: Let the people decide.

Well, the people decided. It is not two out of three, three out of five, or four out of seven. The people did decide.

The Leader of the New Democrats said, after the election—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Why don't you make your own speech? Have you any material of your own? How about a little material of your own?

**Mr. MacKay:** Some things never change with the Liberals. Before the right hon. gentleman came in, I was talking about a Prime Minister whom I think the Leader of the Opposition would like to emulate, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In the 1911 *Farmers Almanac*, which is another great record, there is a poem that I love to quote. Talk about *déjà vu*, Mr. Speaker. It is as appropriate today as it was then. It goes like this:

"Look upon, the Grits the grimy, grizzled Grits.  
What a woebegone expression across their faces flits.

For they are thinking, thinking deeply, how to run the country neatly,  
And they wonder how in thunder that it's going to be done.

But the voters, those who matter, paid no heed to their idle chatter,  
Those grimy, grungy, grizzly, grumpy, old Grits."

I look upon them tonight, Mr. Speaker, and they are friends of mine and friends of ours, but I believe that really they should take cognizance of the fact that the debate is over. As the Leader of the Opposition would say, and I know he is a great fan of Rudyard Kipling:

"The tumult and the shouting dies, the captains and the kings depart,  
but still thy legacy remains, a humble and a contrite heart."

I do not see any humbleness or contriteness on the other side of the House, Mr. Speaker. I suppose that is too much to ask of politicians—even those on this side of the House. But I should think that the Leader of the Opposition would be willing to concede that the debate has been a good one; that it has been extensive—

• (2240)

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Until now.

**Mr. MacKay:**—and it is now time to get on with the job.

A lot of Canadians over the years thought about free trade, people as diverse as Gordon Milling, who was a research economist with the United Steelworkers of America. In the historic town of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, some 20 years ago, Mr. Milling espoused the idea of free trade, saying that it might be a very good thing; that a reduction in tariff barriers—and he was talking about DOSCO, a company then operating in