

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

I am sorry if I sound a bit demagogic, Mr. Chairman. But the people in my riding were outraged when they watched the national news in the evening and heard Mr. Turner say it was the end of the Canadian dream. Come on! I asked the people in my riding if they had ever been in Jasper or if they had visited Alberta. The answer was no. I asked them if they had ever been to Old Orchard. The answer was yes. Our people in Quebec are used to travelling to the United States. They will not lose their culture nor their language. Do not try to make us believe Americans are bad boys who only think of manipulating us. Our people are proud to be able to do more business with the Americans. So big industries and small industries, those of ordinary people, to borrow a phrase from the NDP, our socialists, our avant-garde, those champions of ordinary citizens . . . I visited small businesses. I have in mind Consulab that specializes in advanced technology and Moulures Bégin. Here is what I heard from them: "Do not tell anybody I am for free trade, I want to get ready before other small businesses in the same field. Wait before you talk about it." I renege on my word tonight, but I do so in the interest of the country and that of Hon. Members. It is important that you know about it.

I must say I had much fun discussing free trade. I thank the Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Turner), the Leader of the Liberal Party, for waking us up. I spent the past three weeks discussing free trade everywhere, and I feel that the popularity-seeking arguments put forward by the Opposition have scared our people stiff. You will notice that everybody who can see straight in Quebec, including Premier Bourassa, the PQ Leader, the Desjardins Movement, such great journalists as Alain Dubuc, the Mayor of Beauport, the largest city in my riding, Jacques Langlois—none of them belonging to the Conservative Party—are all for free trade.

It is important to mention that two weeks before the election, in the Quebec region, all open-line radio hosts invited objective guests such as Bernard Landry, Claude Masson, an economist with Laval University . . . We felt that the more we were going to explain free trade, the more people would understand it. You may have noticed that since the November 21 election, the various polls indicate that we would have won more seats, and the proportion of people who are now for the Free Trade Agreement is constantly rising. In other words, if the election was held today, three-quarters of all Canadians would support free trade and we would have between 225 and 250 seats.

As you may have guessed, Mr. Chairman, I want to be consistent with my original statement. I will not insist further. I suggest that we should not add to the pain of the people who are down. *Afflictio afflicto non addenda est* . . . That is enough. I just want to repeat again that when we listen to the people concerned—when I see a guy in the Quebec region—in addition to being the Member for Montmorency—Orléans, I am a member of the regional caucus which is brilliantly chaired by the Hon. Member for Québec East (Mr. Tremblay), when I see a guy like Louis Garneau who supplies the praiseworthy Canadian cycling team with clothing for cycling and has to pay 30 per cent of custom duties to the United States. He said: With the free trade agreement, tomorrow I could pay \$100,000 per year less in custom duties, and I would be able to open a plant in Saint-Augustin. When I say that to the people, they say: "It is great, Mr. DeBlois!" I am not the one who is saying that, but an ordinary guy back home who is the president of a company which is far from being a multinational.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I think that we do not need to look into the Bill before us. I realize why we are still dealing with Clause 2. It is not necessary to study every clause, because the demonstration I have just made will certainly reassure Members opposite and I am sure that tomorrow at the latest we will be able to leave and spend Christmas at home, knowing that our friends will change their minds and finally support this dramatic and important initiative for the future of Canada, namely, the adoption of a bilateral agreement with the United States.

• (2150)

[English]

**Mr. Volpe:** Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to contribute and to participate in the debate that is designed to introduce some amendments to the trade deal. My Party and I feel a great need to amend the trade Bill that we find deficient both in process and in content. I dare say that the Government has recognized many of those deficiencies, many of the shortcomings, both in the House in the course of the last couple of days and also during the election campaign.

The people of the riding of Eglinton—Lawrence have been most generous in demonstrating to me and to my Party the type of trust, faith and encouragement they have in us. They did that with their votes. That demonstrated their complete trust in our position that they