

*S. O. 21***TRADE**CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—
NORTHERN ONTARIO BUSINESSES

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, having had the opportunity over the last number of weeks to sit as the representative from northern Ontario on Bill C-130 in the legislative committee on trade, may I say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to those in the House who have a tendency not to believe in the trade deal and how important it is for regions of the country such as northern Ontario, that the President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Roger Hamel, came out strongly in support of the free trade agreement which will benefit small and medium-sized businesses in northern Ontario, as has the Canadian steel industry which is vital to northern Ontario, my riding, and the mining community.

● (1410)

The C.D. Howe Institute has stated that Canada should establish and maintain the attitude that we should have a free trade agreement with the United States.

When one listens to members of the Opposition and the negative approach that they have, one cannot help but conclude they are not interested in building a strong future for Canada and Canadians. They are more interested in destroying something that will be good for each and every one of us.

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, it has been reported that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has been very generous to the people of his home riding of Manicouagan. Over \$288 million has been spent in that riding, confirming what we already know about the Conservatives' tactics. When a region matters in terms of electoral politics, it can be assured of financial attention from the Prime Minister. This was true of Lac-Saint-Jean, and it is true of Manicouagan.

But what about the rest of the country? Some areas are not as well served. In Newfoundland, in Nova Scotia, and in the interior of British Columbia, people are struggling with high rates of unemployment and few job opportunities. Where are the hand-outs there? In my riding of Hamilton Mountain many older workers were laid off last January and they are still waiting for a federal government program to help them cope until they can collect their pensions. But they do not live in an important riding for the Conservatives, so they will have to continue waiting.

The Conservatives have made regional disparities in this country worse, because they can only see where their interests lie, and not the importance of all Canadians' interests.

AGRICULTURE

EFFECT OF DROUGHT ON FARMERS IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Mr. Jim Caldwell (Essex—Kent): Mr. Speaker, while some parts of Ontario have received adequate rainfall over the past few weeks—and it rains here in Ottawa today—the drought and its effects continue in my riding of Essex—Kent. Above normal temperatures and lack of rain have devastated many of the earlier processing crops, many of which have had to be by-passed or ploughed down because of poor quality.

Corn and soybean crops have not matured properly, and yields are expected to be reduced dramatically. Fruit crops, such as apples and tomatoes, have not fared well from the extreme heat and lack of rainfall.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) indicated earlier that assistance would be forthcoming for Ontario farmers.

The farmers in my riding have been thankful for the assistance the Government has provided in the past, but they do not want to be forgotten as conditions improve in other areas of the province. The drought is still a reality in the deep south of Ontario, and its effects continue to take their toll on crops and on the financial position of farmers.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

FREE TRADE DEBATE—POSITION OF LIBERAL PARTY

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal is currently at report stage in the House of Commons. Because the agreement seriously compromises the integrity and sovereignty of our nation, it is absolutely vital that Members are permitted the opportunity to debate a host of important amendments proposed by our Party's trade critic which seek to correct a piece of legislation that will drastically alter the fabric of Canada.

Yet, for the last several days, between the Government's threat of imposing closure, which would prematurely choke off any debate, and the daily, useless delay tactics of the NDP, which prevent the debate from continuing, the principle of conducting a mature and frank discussion is being sabotaged.

While the Liberal Party is firmly opposed to this deal, it is not afraid and indeed wishes to discuss the issues freely and fully. By threatening to close debate, the Tories are revealing their undemocratic streak, while the NDP's delay tactics are clearly non-democratic.

We Liberals not only demand that the Government should let the people decide, but we are also asking, for the peoples' benefit, that the Conservatives and members of the NDP should let the Members speak.