

reduced by \$200 million. We are spending close to \$500 million less today than was spent in 1984.

**An Hon. Member:** There are more people working today.

**Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Community colleges are being closed down; classrooms are being shut down as a result. And there has been no initiative to try to provide a new formulation.

And in the future, our ability to provide direction and initiative in that area will again be hamstrung and limited. Why? Because we have signed an agreement which, as it relates to the service sector, gives away the power of the provincial government to set those kinds of standards.

**Ms. Copps:** A "Made-in-Washington" policy.

**An Hon. Member:** That line didn't work during the campaign.

**Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, every time one turns around, one bumps into the hard reality that the ability of Canadians to make decisions relating to their own interests, their own priorities, their own judgments is completely hamstrung. We find ourselves handcuffed. We find that we no longer have the same range of opportunities.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is why we as a caucus believe that this debate today is important. Future generations will be looking at this agreement and this debate. They will be trying to understand the kind of lunacy that took hold of the Government of the day to sign the agreement. But they will also be looking for an alternative, for another judgment—which is one of the reasons why we think that an appropriate amendment, an amendment which we hope this Government would have the sense to accept, is that which would require a three-year review, a sunset clause.

If Hon. Members opposite think the agreement is so good, I invite them to put it to the test. Accept an amendment calling for a three-year parliamentary review of the agreement. And if it does work to the benefit of Canada and Canadians, they get the applause; and if it does not, then the people, in the subsequent election, will have the opportunity to reject it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):** I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that that is a fair deal.

*Canada—U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

Do the Hon. Members opposite have the courage to put their agreement to the test of open parliamentary scrutiny?

In that way, during the next election campaign, the people of Canada will be able to decide based upon the full information.

I ask the Hon. Members opposite to accept the challenge, to put the agreement to that type of test. Accept the amendment.

We on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, believe that our trusteeship is on behalf of the millions of Canadians who voted against the agreement—and not just to those who voted against it today but to their children and subsequent generations. We want those people to know that there is an alternative, that there is a different way of governing this country, that there is a way of using government in a constructive and positive way to bring about a civil society, a compassionate and caring society. We recognize that the public sector must be heavily involved and deeply involved in caring for its citizens.

That is the choice that Canadians will have to make four years from now.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, as our Leader said during the course of his remarks on the motion for the second reading of Bill C-2, this debate is not the end of the matter; it is just the beginning. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that we Liberals have just begun to fight.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

• (1240)

**Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca):** Mr. Speaker, I want to say at the outset that I feel compelled to take a few moments in my maiden speech to make a number of very personal comments which I think are appropriate considering my own history.

I want to put on the record my deep appreciation to the voters of Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca who were so willing to put their trust and confidence in my hands. I hope I will be able to serve them well in this Chamber, although I think I would have been able to serve them a lot better if I was closer to the Chair or, preferably, on that side of the House.

**Mr. McDermid:** We do not want you.

**Mr. Barrett:** Nonetheless, as always in politics, looking to the next time, we will leave that to the next election.