

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

building materials at lower prices. I could go on. However, from my perspective the most important thing about the Free Trade Agreement is what it says about Canada and the world.

The world is changing. Many trading blocs have been and are being established. We are all familiar with the European Economic Community, OPEC, and the Australia-New Zealand pact. It is not that simple. Other informal blocs exist or are forming, and they will eventually become formalized. For example, Canadian coal companies do not have a free market in Asia. There is an informal agreement that every year no country in the Pacific Rim will discuss coal purchases until the Japanese have met with Canadian coal producers and hammered the price as low as they can get it. Then other customers, such as Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong will come in and negotiate their terms. These tactics, and many others, conspire to isolate Canada to its disadvantage.

South American and Malaysian countries are also discussing the establishment of trading blocs. This is the new regime in international trade, and Canada must develop its own alliances. In my view, the Free Trade Agreement is the first step in this process. Canada is a trading nation with some 30 per cent of its GNP directly related to trade, as compared with approximately 15 per cent in Japan and 10 per cent in the United States. We have 25 million people strung out like a string of beads across the Arctic Circle. They cannot afford to be isolated from world trade and the substantial market these new trading blocs represent.

Unlike the EEC agreement, the Free Trade Agreement with the United States does not prevent us from negotiating similar deals with other countries. This must be our future goal, but first let us get on with the Free Trade Agreement.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, as I said earlier, my riding of Calgary North is a most friendly and neighbourly area. The ordinary Canadians who live there are the same who were hosts last Winter to the world during the 15th Olympic Games. In my opinion, these people are far from being self-centered, because several thousands of them worked as volunteers to entertain the world during this prestigious event. They show the same kind of friendship and enthusiasm whenever they welcome other Canadians in their midst, no matter their race or colour, not only to live and prosper together, but to share their hospitality.

We are an open and warm community with diverse origins and traditions. We believe that the Free Trade Agreement with the United States is a concrete manifestation of our openmindedness and desire to meet the world community on an equal footing.

[English]

The people of Calgary North have decided. They have a vision of Canada that embraces not only free trade with the United States of America, but one which looks outward to the whole world, and a vision that within Canada there would be less regulation and more freedom and opportunity.

In closing, Madam Speaker, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your family, and most particularly the Right Hon. Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), the Hon. Leader of the NDP, all my colleagues in the House, my constituents, and their families, all the blessings of the season.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I am pleased that the people of New Westminster—Burnaby have given their confidence to me to represent them here in the House of Commons. My constituency has a long history of sending men and women from the New Democratic Party here to represent its interests.

In fact, a portion of Burnaby was once represented by a great parliamentarian, former Leader of our Party, and distinguished Canadian, Tommy Douglas. It was Tommy Douglas and the CCF who had the courage to lead the political fight to bring universal medicare to Canadians and Canadian families.

In recent years the new riding of New Westminster—Burnaby was ably represented by the present Hon. Member for Burnaby—Kingsway (Mr. Robinson) and by a woman who has been at the forefront of the struggle for world peace, Ms. Pauline Jewett.

The overwhelming concern of the people in the riding of New Westminster—Burnaby is the trade deal that we are debating tonight. This is an historic debate for Canada, a debate that will affect the future of our country. The men and women who came here before us have ensured that Canadian social and cultural values were protected and have built our country on a co-operative model.

In contrast, the society in the United States has been driven mainly by market principles. We in the New