

*Statements by Ministers*

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

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Our Government got suckered in. Our Government got taken, and we are not yet sure, because certain remarks were raised this morning in Washington. It may be, under the American Constitution, that that tribunal cannot be binding against the American court system. There may still be appeals through the federal court system to the Supreme Court of the United States on anything decided by the tribunal. In other words, we are not sure about the binding nature of it. One thing we are certain of it is not arbitrating any mutually agreed definitions between Canada and the United States. It will be applying American trade law against Canada.

We do not know yet whether this tribunal and the arrangements beneath it excludes Canada's remedies to the GATT. Under GATT where we have, over the past seven years, won eight of the nine cases brought before that international tribunal, GATT has the right to challenge the relevance in international terms of national law. This tribunal set up and agreed to by the Government does not challenge American law; it applies American law. We do not know whether we have lost our right to go, as we have in a sovereign way, to the international tribunal of GATT. Our only purpose, according to the Government and those who support a comprehensive free trade agreement with the United States, was to gain exemption from American protectionist sentiment. We have not gained that execution. We are still bound by American law and we have agreed to a tribunal which may or may not be binding that will apply American law against Canadian lumber, potash, steel and fish. That is what we have, and that is less than an achievement, it is an absolute insult to the intelligence of the Canadian market.

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

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, many of the aspects of what little documentation we do have are a source of concern. What in fact the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is telling us is that ever more economic barriers are being raised between Canada and the United States. From here on the Americans are quite free to invade us: all our investment markets, all our financial institutions, our insurance companies, our advertising firms, our transport companies are now wide open.

The Americans also have ready access to our natural resources, our agriculture, our car industry and the Auto Pact.

[*English*]

The principles we have before us—and that is all we have, we do not have the document—are a minefield for Canada. Let us look at some of the items. Let us take a look at investment. Let us call it “takeover unlimited”. All of Canada is now open to American proprietorship. Takeover fever will go northward. This country will be a satellite of the United States. We will become the number one takeover target of American business. The Americans already own too much of

us. Now it is “Open Sesame”. It is “Open doors. Come on, we are ready. Come and take us”. That is what the Government has done.

We ought to look at the nature of what has happened to the sovereignty of this House of Commons. In the Yeutter document—we get most of our information traditionally from the American side—here is what Mr. Yeutter says: “Under this agreement, Canada commits to make permanent its recent policy of not screening new business investments”. In other words, it will be a permanent deal. There is no way a future Parliament can play around with it, modify it or amend it. No, Mr. Speaker. We have yielded on the floor of this House of Commons the sovereignty of our nation to control investment.

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

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** We have known for some time that the Americans want to exercise their empire over services world-wide, and particularly in an avaricious way to Canada. Services are now wide open, financial institutions, banks, trust companies, insurance companies, advertising and investment banks. But what reciprocal rights do we get? Transportation. All the advantages that we may have in terms of investment grants, subsidy or tax incentives to new high technology industries may be out of the window. How will we be able to assist new industry to compete with the United States?

Let us take a look at the Auto Pact. It is hard to read from the statement of principles what is done to the Auto Pact. The statement is deliberately vague. On a first reading it appears that the Auto Pact may have been gutted.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** At best it has been phased out. As the tariffs affecting automobiles and auto parts are reduced to zero, the whole basis of an Auto Pact disappears or is put in jeopardy. Where are the production guarantees? Where are the employment guarantees? All those hundreds of thousands of jobs are at stake, yet we do not have details. The Prime Minister said all along, his Ministers said all along, in response to repeated questions in the House of Commons about the Auto Pact being on the table, they said to your Honour, “No, Sir, it is not”. The Prime Minister misled us again. The Auto Pact is on the table. It has been gutted and diluted by this agreement.

One of the first responsibilities I had in this House several years ago under the late Arthur Laing was to defend a Canadian water policy and Canadian water from the thirsty glances of our American friends. I always believed that there was no such thing as a North American water policy, a North American resources policy, or a North American energy policy. There is a Canadian energy policy and an American energy policy. We should never yield our sovereignty on those. This Government has, and so we have now become a storehouse of the United States.