

Supply

are normal; they just happen. As recently as last week, we had problems in Abitibi, forest fires. This slows down forest harvesting.

However, Mr. Speaker, I note that we are ready to face competition; even the businessmen in our area's forest industry are telling us that we are really ready to face up to competition. I could remind the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre, Mr. Speaker, that we had to deal with a deficit in Canada. But it's in the past now. We are forging ahead, I am telling the Hon. Member.

Canada is now blessed with a really dynamic Prime Minister who will help us.

Mr. Speaker, I would really like the Hon. Member to tell us where he got his information when he referred to Quebec.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will know how difficult it is to get sound information on the studies concerning free trade since his own Government refuses to share its findings with the people of Quebec and with the people of the rest of the country. They do not trust Canadian men and women enough to let them see for themselves if and how they will be affected.

I willingly accept his invitation to pay him a visit in the Abitibi. He is right to say that until now we have not been able to send anyone in the Abitibi, except that the provincial NDP leader for Quebec went to the Abitibi during the election campaign and the Hon. Member well knows that now, even at the provincial level, the NDP has become as we know the third party or even the second. We trail behind the other two provincial parties, but are well ahead of the Progressive Conservative Party at the provincial level, with the support of 120 per cent of the Quebec people according to the last poll. This was the first poll in Quebec indicating the voting preferences at the provincial level for the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, I notice . . . The Hon. Member says that the people of Quebec are looking forward to free trade. Now, I think that they are trying to sell something that can cause them great harm.

And I point out to the Hon. Member that many groups in Quebec have stated their concerns about the matter, such as the Quebec Lumber Manufacturers Association which includes several companies in his own area, the Federation of Metal Trades, the members of the C.N.T.U. the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, the National Action Committee on the Status of Woman, the Shoe Manufacturers' Association, the Brewers Association of Quebec, the QFL or Quebec Federation of Labour, the *Fédération des femmes du Québec*, a very important group in that Province, the *Centrale de l'enseignement du Québec*, the affiliated trade unions of the C.N.T.U. and the *Union des producteurs agricoles*.

Mr. Speaker, when one is aware of the conditions in which Quebec workers work and deal with their employers and the Boards of Trade, with respect to important issues relating to

every aspect of the community, then the views of those people are quite important.

Mr. Fontaine: Mr. Speaker, I am outraged at the insinuating blabbering of the socialist Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) concerning Quebec. He should have stayed there longer than his first year of classical studies in 1955. Speaking of surveys, I will tell you that in Quebec there is not one New Democratic Party Member. That is a survey. No socialist in Quebec. No socialist in Newfoundland. No socialist in New Brunswick. No socialist in Prince Edward Island. No socialist in Nova Scotia, and there are not going to be any either. And as far as Quebec is concerned, despite what the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said against Mr. Bourassa who called him a "hot dog eater", and notwithstanding the suggestion made by the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau) that there are 135,000 people in Quebec who would not be able to adapt to free trade, the situation is good in Quebec. Unemployment has decreased by 3 per cent since September 1984.

There are 125,000 new jobs. The Hon. Member narrowed the issue down to shipyards, although \$108 billion are involved.

In the constituency of Lévis there are \$435 million worth of contracts signed by this Government with shipyards. I have to tell the House about it. And if he knows that much about Quebec, he should know that Premier Bourassa and the Minister for External Affairs (Mr. Macdonald) have recently gone on record as supporting free-trade. Quebec exports \$14 billion worth of products, 70 per cent of which to the United States. This also he should have learned, in the mere 10 months he stayed in Quebec.

Therefore you have no authority to speak on behalf of Quebec. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I have no question to ask that Socialist Party Member, who I fear is not qualified to answer sincerely.

Mr. Cassidy: After that comment by the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine), I can tell him I am proud of being a social democrat and a Member of a party with a strong tradition in this country, in Canada, a party which gave Canadians medicare, which fought to establish the first retirement pension for—

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the Hon. Member's gesture is not shown on TV, because it reflects the opinion he has of the 30 per cent of Quebecers, the 34 per cent of French-speaking Quebecers who support the socialist party, the New Democratic Party. As he will know, because the popular support given the NDP is stronger in the Quebec City area, comes the next election his constituency will probably elect one of the first New Democratic Members in the Province of Quebec.

Mr. Fontaine: I did beat your leader in Quebec!