

It is very fitting that the subject of this speech be the Mulroney trade deal, as it is the voters in Timmins—Chapleau who sent me here to oppose this deal, which was the primary reason for my victory and the Conservative loss on November 21.

Timmins—Chapleau is the third largest riding in Ontario by area. It stretches from Iroquois Falls in the east to White River in the west, from Timmins in the north to Gogama in the south. It is a riding of miners, trappers, loggers, railway workers, and many others. It is also a riding of hard-working, honest families who love their country.

The communities which make up our riding are resource-based communities. When the mine closes or when the mill lays off workers, when the railway becomes automated, or there is a slump in demand for our forest products, the economic heart of our communities die. Resource-based economies are the ones which suffer first during an economic downturn. They are the ones which are the last to recover, if they recover at all.

That kind of area needs the support of the federal Government through regional development programs. However, over the long run we need to diversify the economies of these communities to offset the boom or bust cycles which have devastated all northern areas of our country during bad economic times.

In order for this to happen, the federal Government must have the ability to direct public support to these areas. It must have both the political will and the required legislative tools to give support to the North. This deal takes those powers away.

With the FTA in effect, over the next decade the Government will have to find levers of economic power but will not be able to use them. Under the Free Trade Agreement, if the mill in Iroquois Falls were to close, the Government would not be able to bail it out, keep the workers working and the families prospering. The Government would be bound by this deal under which regional development is likely to be considered an unfair subsidy. Those workers in Iroquois Falls would be sacrificed to the Conservative ideology of keeping the Americans happy at all costs.

This deal will not produce a high-tech manufacturing boom in my part of this great country. The deal does not have a lot of winners in Timmins.

The Free Trade Agreement is already causing victims. Late last week Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie announced lay-offs. I believe these lay-offs, like the lay-

offs at Gillette, Northern Telecom, and Pittsburgh Paints, are a direct result of the corporate plans to streamline operations in preparation for the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement.

The iron ore for the specialty steel produced for Algoma is mined in Wawa, Ontario and railed or shipped down to Sault Ste. Marie. As Algoma lays off workers, lay-offs can follow in Wawa. This deal will mean further lay-offs in Timmins—Chapleau when the current subsidy for the Algoma Central Railway is also terminated as an unfair subsidy. Rail lay-offs will inevitably follow in Wawa and Hawk Junction.

All that this deal does for the North is make victims. The Government likes to use fancy words like “streamlining” or “downsizing” or “winners and losers”, as the Liberals first said under Pierre Trudeau. These are all statistics for the economists in the Department of Finance or the bureaucrats in External Affairs. However, they are all people who are losing their jobs, and their families cannot be fed on fancy words of reassurance from the Conservatives about adjustment programs or the unemployment insurance program.

The victims have received a very cruel present from Prime Minister Scrooge. They have lost their jobs, only to be given vague promises about how they will benefit under free trade. I would never put vague promises under a Christmas tree for my kids.

• (1840)

Another aspect of this deal which I find unbelievable is this notion of an unfair subsidy. I do not need to have some American bureaucrat tell me what he or she thinks is fair and unfair. I know what is fair and what is not. Creating jobs in my riding is fair, and this deal, costing the good people in my riding their jobs is unfair. One does not have to be a lawyer or a high-priced consultant to figure that out.

The Americans want to keep their jobs and capture our markets. With this deal, we walked into a trap, and I fear that it will be working people in Timmins—Chapleau who will suffer from the Government's misguided policy.

Our Government has been manipulated by the Americans into walking into an ill-advised negotiation with a list of concessions, not a list of bottom line protections. I cannot imagine going to buy a car with a list of options that I am prepared to give up drawn up before I go into the showroom to see if the car is safe and comfortable. This deal is like a car with no engine