

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

the House now taking a completely different position from the one he took in 1973, only because it is politically advantageous for him to do so. That is all. Let him start being a little consistent. He was challenging the Prime Minister for being inconsistent the other day. I ask him to be consistent. That is the most he can do in this House of Commons and thereby be an honourable Member.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have a chance to speak on second reading of Bill C-2. Clearly, 57 per cent of Canadians are opposed to this Bill and they said so in the general election of November 21. This is why we hear the ho, ho, ho's on the other side. They are like little Santa Clauses who want to sweep under the carpet that which the vast majority of Canadians opposed in this general election. Even the Gallup polls which took place during the election showed that people opposed the deal.

In fact, most Canadians want liberalization of trade. A lot of Canadians did not know what the deal had in it. If they had known, even fewer people would have supported it. It is very interesting to listen to the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski). He certainly does have a vast, extensive clipping service. I did not hear many new ideas, just a lot of quotes from newspapers. He certainly was pleased to gloss over the fact that the vast majority of Canadians were opposed to the Government in the general election. The Government has a legal right to implement the legislation. We have never said otherwise. However, I do not think it has a right to limit discussion at second reading of the Bill to less than one day. That is what is happening in the 24-hour period that we are in right now.

• (1530)

The Deputy Prime Minister talked about opposition tactics. If there ever was a Government that deliberately tried not to tell Canadians what was in the most important economic document to come before this Parliament in many years, that was the strategy in this case. It was set out very plainly and clearly in the communications outline that the Government would spend millions of dollars trying to sell the document, but not attempt to explain it to Canadians. If we heard once, we heard hundreds of times during the course of the election campaign: "I do not know what is in it. I do not know what it is about". In spite of the Government spending some \$30 million attempting to sell the deal, it did not attempt to explain it.

This morning when I listened to the Hon. Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca (Mr. Barrett), about whom the Deputy Prime Minister said a few moments ago that he was one of the former Premiers of British Columbia, I could hardly believe the words, because he was talking about what a great Party of principle they were, and how determined they were to oppose to the free trade deal. Yet, during the election campaign, one would think that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) was the one who was promoting the free trade deal because during the last three weeks the Government was being supported by some \$5 or \$6 million from the private sector, none of it going through the Election Expenses Act, while the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent) was hammering away at the Leader of the Opposition as if he were selling the free trade deal. It was very interesting to listen to the Hon. Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca talking about that this morning. I was very confused as to what he was talking about. I do not think he really knew, because clearly during the election campaign his Leader was fighting those in the Liberal Party, and its Leader, who were opposing this legislation.

This afternoon the Deputy Prime Minister said that he was going to talk about the benefits of the free trade deal to western Canada. For his benefit I would like to put on the record some of the problems of the free trade deal, since as well as being the Deputy Prime Minister, he is also the Minister of Agriculture. Agriculture was singled out as an area that was going to be exempt from the free trade deal, at least that is what we heard from the former Minister of Agriculture. Clearly they are implicated up to their ears in this deal. Even the Macdonald Commission recommended that agriculture not be included in the deal.

This afternoon I would like to talk about the impacts of the free trade deal, Bill C-2, on agriculture. I believe that, in the long haul, agriculture will be hurt very badly by the deal. The grape and wine industry has been almost decimated before the deal was anywhere near implemented by legislation in the House. Grape growers in British Columbia and in Ontario were not able to get lines of credit last April, which is at least nine months before the deal was implemented.

During the past week we have seen announcements that some 2,000 industrial workers have been laid off. The wine and grape industry was affected far sooner than that. Now it is supposedly being assisted through a very inadequate program. I believe that in the Niagara