

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

dumping, as was done this past summer in connection with the import of U.S. apples into Canada.

Under Canadian law, Canadian producers and manufacturers can allege that imports coming into Canada are unfairly subsidized, with a request that a countervailing tariff or duty be imposed.

Every trading country in the world has its own set of trade laws. To hear Hon. Members opposite speak, one would think that it was only in the bad old United States of America that there were such terrible laws about subsidies and countervail and anti-dumping.

Canada itself has such laws, and we insist upon retaining those laws until the trading nations of the world can reach common agreement on what an appropriate countervail law is and what the appropriate definition of "trade distorted subsidies" is.

Until that day arrives, we need our anti-dumping and countervail laws, just as the U.S. needs such laws, just as the European Economic Community needs such laws, just as Japan needs such laws, just as any other trading country in the world needs such laws.

The Free Trade Agreement, in addition to creating new opportunities for Canadian enterprises, in addition to providing Canadians with a more effective shield against U.S. protectionist actions, strengthens our bargaining position at the GATT.

I would not expect Hon. Members opposite to know anything about that, because they have demonstrated no interest in the GATT.

While the Liberal Party pledged its dedication to the GATT system, as soon as a GATT panel decision adverse to Canadian interests came down, they began attacking the GATT. That is their wont. They are in support of anything that sounds good. But once there is a result that they do not like, they come out against it.

In any event, in theory at least, they are supportive of the GATT.

They came out against the bilateral arrangement between the U.S. and Canada, but they were all for the GATT. That was their official position.

An Hon. Member: Just like the Tories on the Auto Pact.

Mr. Crosbie: And it is the same in the New Democratic Party. They are for the GATT—until the GATT rules, when applied to Canada, result in a decision that we in Canada do not like.

If we get caught imposing a protectionist action of our own and the GATT panel rules against us, we have the two opposition Parties coming out against the GATT. They no longer like the GATT; they don't like the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement. The NDP Party thinks we can rely on our own little market here in Canada. They believe in autarky, I think it is called; that you can just survive on your own little internal market of 26 million people. They forget that 30 per cent of all Canadian jobs come from exports, and 20 per cent of those from exports to the U.S.

• (1220)

Mr. Della Noce: Oshawa.

Mr. Crosbie: They are only concerned about Oshawa, of course. Oh, the autarkist is getting up. Woeful Willy from Windsor is wending his weary way to his "wittle" feet again.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor on a point of order.

Mr. Langdon: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It concerns a reference the Minister has made a number of times. There was in fact an NDP party last night, which accounts in part for the limited numbers here today.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Langdon: Ordinarily it is the "NDP" or the "New Democratic Party".

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, I just want to explain why this strengthens our position in the multilateral trade negotiations at the GATT. In the previous rounds of the MTN, one of the most important parts of the process, if not the most important, was what deal would be struck between Canada and the U.S. The reason was and is that Canada and the U.S. are the largest trading partners in the world. We were the two countries that had the most at stake in those negotiations.

Under the GATT rules any agreement reached between Canada and the U.S. had to automatically benefit other countries under the most favoured nation rule, whether or not those other countries made any concessions to Canada. That is why this agreement is so much more favourable to us than it would be if it was reached in the MTN at GATT. Every concession we made to the U.S. or they made to us would have to be automatically conferred on all the other countries engaged in those negotiations. The agreement means that Canada does not have to pay multilaterally for