

Supply

That is good, Mr. Speaker. It is good because we do not give money for nothing, to private enterprise or anybody else. But speaking about free trade, I must absolutely get back to it, Mr. Speaker.

● (1700)

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker, let me quote from *Hansard* on February 24, 1972. The Leader of the Opposition, who was Minister of Finance at the time, was addressing the issue of trade with the United States. He said:

The division of the world into large trading blocs, to which I referred a few moments ago, presents particular dangers to Canada as a major trading nation and one of the few industrialized countries without free access to a market of 100 million people or more.

Of course, we are talking about a population in Canada of 25 million. He went on to say:

We in this country must now use what influence we can bring to bear to press for a resumption of the postwar movement toward greater liberalization of international trade. The dangerous alternative would be a move backward toward greater protectionism.

There are more than 200 protectionist Bills in the United States which are a serious threat to our economy.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I hope the Hon. Member will put a question, or we will have to carry on because we do not have that much time. Does the Hon. Member have a question?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Fine, Mr. Speaker, given the opportunity, I could have spent more time on that subject.

Mr. Speaker, the only point I want to make in thirty seconds before asking my question is that for men and women of Canada, of Quebec, and even more so for us in Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine and other eastern Quebec ridings, it was difficult because we saw development more as a matter of politics than an economic issue. We have changed all that since 1984.

Here is the question I wanted to ask: During the twenty-five years the former government was in office, for us, for our development, Mr. Speaker, I am not denying it, I did the same thing with the people of my riding, with my partisans, and I said the same thing: Give me a chance. And in three years, I put more money in my riding than it ever received before—and we cut—

The question I wish to put to the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) is the following. He said—let him answer the question... If during twenty-five years those people in his Party did not do anything and gave money to their friends while forgetting about regional development... Let him answer, if he wants to return to office, let him say how he will change their policy, because you can be sure that next time the Progressive Conservative Party—

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, I suppose the Hon. Member was speaking for his own Party. He is a bit confused about Canada Works and U.S. Works. I imagine he wanted to do some comparisons.

What I wanted to say to the Hon. Member for Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine (Mr. Gray) is that free trade is much more than Canada Works or basement renovations. I can tell him that for people like my parents, who live in the Magdalen Islands and fortunately did not vote for him, it is important to be from the Magdalen Islands or from the Gaspé Peninsula or from Bonaventure, but they don't want to be Americans. They believe in the value of the Canadian challenge, and traditionally, despite hardship, although the Hon. Member did not succeed in getting funds for his area under the Eastern Plan, although he did not look after his area, these people have the will to be Canadians, and values—

Mr. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine):—I rise on a point of order—

Mr. Lapierre:—I think the Hon. Member is rising on a point of order—

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine, on a very short point of order.

Mr. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, it will be very short. The point I tried to make is that on Îles-de-la-Madeleine in the Gaspé we had 25 years of Liberal Government. We could not do it. The point that should be made now about what the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) said, is that the people must have value for the dollar.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It is a good point of debate.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lapierre: I should like to conclude my reply, Mr. Speaker. I am afraid the Hon. Member does not know anything about free trade. I also think he is mistaking oranges for tomatoes. The fact is that a Liberal policy is a two-prong policy: developing markets abroad and developing domestic markets within a global formula. We strongly believe in GATT's international machinery, while developing a domestic policy which would enable Canada to meet the challenges of international competition. That is exactly the commitment my leader made a few weeks ago before a group in Toronto.

Mr. Speaker, what the Hon. Member should understand is that, strictly speaking, and far from solving any problem in the Magdalen Islands, the proposed free trade accord will jeopardize several programs made available to the people of these islands, whether they are the regional economic development assistance programs... the Prime Minister himself admitted that the unemployment insurance and social benefit