

goods that we cannot compete with. Goods produced under Maquiladora should not be considered as U.S. origin products for the purposes of the FTA. This loophole is a killer for Ontario manufacturers. It will affect hundreds of jobs. We need safeguards and adjustment programs prepared to protect our Canadian workers before the fact, not after the fact.

Yes, the Americans are our friends and our allies. Yes, they are our greatest trading partner. But that does not mean that we have to give up our standards in the name of free trade. In fact, Mr. Ralph Nader really warned us that free trade means moving to a lower standard for our social and other programs.

Some people say that the Mulroney trade sell-out actually protects Canada. To these people I ask: If this were true, why then did we not achieve guaranteed access to the American market? Why were we not given exemption from their omnibus trade Bill? Why did we have to postpone the discussions on the crucial issue of what constitutes a subsidy?

I ask you, Mr. Chairman, who in their right mind would sign any document with a crucial definition that will remain unresolved for seven years? Is that not a classic case of putting the cart before the horse?

We already have 80 per cent free trade with the United States. We did not have to sell our souls for the other 20 per cent. We should have continued with sectoral agreements through GATT without compromise to achieve the same end.

This Government is determined to rush this agreement through at any cost and to use all tactics available to it, including closure, closure, closure, to achieve its goal.

I ask the Prime Minister in the spirit of reconciliation and healing that he himself admitted was needed after the election, whether he will he stop this parliamentary roller-coaster ride and allow for more public comment on the deal? Will he allow the House of Commons to deal with constructive and positive amendments to what he guaranteed Canadians during the election?

I am sure that the Minister for International Trade feels the same way as I do about this country. This country is a special country. It is our home and it provides our livelihood. Let me point out to Conservative Members that in the last century Sir John A. Macdonald acknowledged this when he said:

There are national considerations that rise far higher than the mere accumulation of wealth, than the mere question of trade

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advantage: there is prestige, national status, and national dominion—

In preparation for the 21st century, and to be able to compete globally and not only with the United States, we must begin to invest more in education, more in research and development, more in training and retraining programs. In short, we have to start investing in our people to become leaders, not followers, and surely not a shadow of the United States in the North American continent.

It is an honour to be given a chance to stand up in this House to fight for my country's future.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Valcourt: If I may, Mr. Chairman, as I rise for the first time in this new Parliament, I should like to thank the people in my Madawaska—Victoria riding who have trusted me and asked me to represent them again in this Parliament.

• (2320)

[*English*]

Someone said: "Let us hear from Main Street. Main Street has spoken. The people have decided". Since we have been in this place the last few days, I thought this was all over.

[*Translation*]

I thought that we had heard enough from the prophets of gloom and doom. I thought that the campaign of fear was over. Apparently it is not. They have not come to their senses, Mr. Chairman. One must wonder if those people who were elected and had called for an election . . . After all it was the leader of the Opposition who asked for an election where the Canadian people would decide. Well, back home, in my Madawaska—Victoria riding, the people decided for Canada. They decided for the future of Canada. They voted for us because they realized what was needed to succeed. You know, during the November 21 election, the Liberal Party made the mistake of trying to represent some people they did not believe in. They did not believe in them. They thought that Canadian businessmen, that men and women, young and old, were like them. They thought that these people lacked the necessary energy, enthusiasm and resources to attack new markets. That is what the Liberals think of Canadians.