

Government Orders

An hon. member: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Just a little aside, I remember when people used to talk about socialized medicine and they said that we were all a bunch of dangerous Reds, that socialism would take away the opportunity for the patient and the doctor to have a relationship. I was never interested in the relationship between the doctor and the patient. All I was interested in was paying the bills.

An hon. member: The same with the doctor.

Mr. Barrett: The same with the doctor.

What do we hear 25 years later? We hear the government benches and the Liberal benches saying: "Vote for us and we will improve medicare". How can they improve medicare if the taxation base is evaporating because of these trade deals? Where are the people who are going to pay the taxes?

I want to tell Mrs. Clinton that the devastation of the loss of nearly 500,000 jobs in this country because of the free trade agreement has cut a terrible swath through the services of health care, and they will never be allowed to initiate theirs if that job base goes to Mexico.

I also want to say this without rancour or personal vindictiveness, but I have yet to hear a Conservative member denounce socialized medicine, denounce the fact that Conservatives also use public health care. They also carry in their pockets that pinko card that allows them to go to the doctor anywhere in the world.

If they were serious about supporting health care, they should say so. On the other hand, if they attack socialism then I demand that they stand up and rip up their medicare cards before someone calls them hypocrites. Only a hypocrite would espouse the public health care system. Only a hypocrite would espouse a socialist health care system while attacking socialism.

I do not believe there is a single hypocrite over there, but I want them to prove it by ripping up their socialist health care cards and telling the world they are against pinko policies. In a pig's eye. Can a pig fly? They are opening themselves to the charge of hypocrisy by supporting health care that they do not believe in, as it is socialist, but at the same time ripping the guts out of the possibility of sustaining the taxation base necessary to support it.

An hon. member: What will NAFTA do to it?

Mr. Barrett: NAFTA will take away approximately another 8 per cent of that potential tax base within 18 months. As that tax base shrinks our unemployment will rise, in some regions beyond the 20 per cent figure.

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In Newfoundland, in the maritimes and in large urban areas those people who first need entry level jobs to get work experience will not be given the opportunity because we signed this deal and those jobs will be gone.

Offshore investment and Canadian investment will go to Mexico. Canadian dollars in Canadian banks, which are saved by Canadian deposit holders who are paid a measly 1.5 per cent by the banks while the banks rip off 16 and 17 per cent on credit cards, will go to Mexico.

An hon. member: It is called greed.

Mr. Barrett: Some of the money held in self-directed RRSPs will also go to Mexico. Nothing will be spent here in Canada. Nothing to provide jobs here. They are all motivated by greed to make a quick profit in Mexico at the expense of Mexican workers.

We demand that Canadian wages and working conditions not go down to the Mexican level. If this government is serious about Third World development we demand that they come up to our level.

Madam Speaker, if you are blind to the clock, I have approximately four minutes to go. Let us not be hasty.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Does the House agree that we do not see the clock for the next four minutes?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Barrett: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If this Canadian government believes that this agreement can provide the jobs to fuel the engine of growth then let it provide some details. How much money will come into this country once we sign this deal, and from where? How much indigenous generic capital will be mobilized in this country to provide jobs now?

There is no strategy, there is no plan. In that regard I agree with the Liberal critic who said the biggest flaw of all was the lack of planning, but the four letter word is also anathema to the Liberal Party. It is spelled p-l-a-n and it has never been used by the Liberal Party.