

*Adjournment Debate*

I told Mr. Hession that and as you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, he was somewhat skeptical. However, he told me that he had faith and he had confidence in me regardless of what might happen and that he was going to support me.

From time to time after the election I continued to make inquiries because that conversation that afternoon with Mr. Hession haunted me. I continued to make those inquiries of our own department. I continued to make those inquiries of Colgate-Palmolive, and on each and every occasion I was assured that Colgate-Palmolive had absolutely no intention of leaving this country. It was here to stay. It was going to stay in that plant on Colgate Avenue in Toronto; no question about it.

Just about three months ago now, at the beginning of September of this year, Colgate-Palmolive announced that it would be closing its plant on Colgate Avenue in Toronto, moving 250 jobs to the United States. As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, one of the first things I thought of when I got that call was Mr. Hession. I called him up and he told me that American management had come in and cavalierly announced that it was closing down the plant, moving it to the United States, moving those jobs to the United States. Of course what a horrendous shot that was to Mr. Hession and all the others who worked at that plant.

I contacted Colgate-Palmolive myself and was told it was too bad, that it was not just a Canada-U.S. decision. It involved world-wide operations. It was a decision based on global efficiency. Costly plants had to be updated. There was extra capacity in the United States, so it was being closed down and their operation was being moved to the United States.

Not much consolation for Mr. Hession or his family or those 249 other families involved.

That is just one example of many cases of a similar nature that has Canada and—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** I apologize but your time is over.

[Translation]

**Mr. André Plourde (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome this

opportunity to respond to the hon. member for whom I have a great deal of respect. In 1984, the *Agenda for Economic Renewal* set out this government's strategy to put in place the policies and programs designed for Canada's long-term benefit.

Measures such as tax reform and expanded trade opportunities have enabled our manufacturing sector to compete on a more level playing field free from unnecessary and unproductive intervention by government.

First, the removal of the former federal sales tax has been important for Canadian business. The old federal sales tax offered a clear competitive advantage to foreign manufacturing concerns and was a silent killer of jobs.

And, second the Free Trade Agreement with the United States has afforded the Canadian manufacturing industry an unparalleled and historic opportunity for open and equal access to a market of 250 million people. Canadians are already seeing the positive results of this agreement. The value of all Canadian exports to the U.S. has increased by nearly \$8 billion since 1988, to a total of \$110.3 billion in 1990. This means greater output for our manufacturing sector and more jobs for Canadians.

It should be pointed out that the Canadian manufacturers have endorsed the actions of the Government of Canada in these areas. They recognized that the removal of the former federal sales tax and the implementation of the free trade agreement have improved their prospects for future growth. Despite these achievements there is more work to be done. This government will soon launch an initiative to invite all Canadians to fashion a new agenda for our future growth and prosperity.

All Canadians, including business, labour, educators and social action groups, will be encouraged to participate in a dialogue leading.

## EDUCATION

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I hope that my friend who will be answering my grievance will cast his notes aside and speak from the bottom of his heart.