

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Mr. Crosbie: I want to be in the Christmas spirit so I will not continue with many of the other quotations.

Mr. Martin: Read Diefenbaker's quote.

Mr. Milliken: Do you have anything to say about unregulated foreign investment?

Mr. Crosbie: Twenty-three years ago at least there was a modicum of intelligence in the Liberal Party of Canada. Today that modicum has been driven out. What we see as a result is across the hall today. We are looking at them today.

What should be the spirit with which the legislation we are now considering is approached? I have given the opinions of the Leader of the Liberal Party, who is no longer listened to by his own caucus. I have given the opinions of the Leader of the New Democratic Party, who certainly is no longer listened to by his caucus. The poor man does not know which shoulder to look over next, or who is coming behind him the quickest.

I want to refer to Premier Peterson of Ontario who was in a statesman-like mode. Perhaps he is getting ready to guide the ship of state federally rather than provincially.

Last summer, according to a Canadian Press report, he said that if the people of this country accept the deal, then obviously he has to stand with the results of that. That is a very reasonable statement. According to an article in the *Ottawa Citizen* on July 27, Premier Peterson said: "Once there is a clear mandate one way or the other, then we will govern ourselves accordingly. I will accept the will of the people". Is it not wonderful how everyone is prepared to accept the will of the people when they think the will of the people will turn out to be their will? However, when the will of the people turns out to be a will-o'-the-wisp, they change very quickly.

The same article goes on to quote Premier Peterson as saying: "I will accept whatever the judgment of the people is. I still would not think it is a great deal but I would accept the verdict". He also said: "I would look at everything we are doing. We will have to look at the situation as it presents itself". He said that his qualification for supporting the deal, that the Tories must win a majority, is only there because a Tory minority Government probably could not implement it anyway. His qualification has been met. We have a majority.

He also said, as quoted in the *Globe and Mail*, that if an election is called and the people of Canada endorse the trade agreement he would co-operate in the deal and

consider dropping challenges to it on matters of provincial jurisdiction.

He said: "If the people of this country speak on an important issue, I have to accept the results of that, and I would as a democrat". He said: "I would not think it is a great deal but I would accept the verdict".

Could anything be clearer? I will be asking Premier Peterson to stick to what he said in several matters over the next several weeks, including the situation with respect to beer, liquor and wine. I have always found Premier Peterson to be reasonable and a good person to deal with. I will be calling on him to observe the spirit of those remarks on or about January 1, 1989, if this legislation goes into effect as I think it will.

I call on Members of his Party to observe the same spirit of the remarks of Premier Peterson and the remarks of their Leader on November 23.

I do not want to take too long today. However, I believe I have unlimited time. My record is eight and one-half hours in the Newfoundland House of Assembly. If driven to it, if irritated, if aggravated by interventions and people interrupting me, I am capable of going to Christmas Day.

Mr. Martin: We want the record.

• (1140)

Mr. Crosbie: There are some interventions from Mr. Martin. Some call him Mart-in, some call him Mar-tin, some call him Martine. We will see which one works when the convention comes.

To get back to my remarks, the opposition Parties believe this to be a dark day for Canada's future. We say that this legislation is an expression of confidence in the abilities of Canadians and it is a crucial step for building a stronger, more prosperous Canada. If that was not the case, we would not have introduced it.

I want to say to the opposition Parties, it is time for them to give the Free Trade Agreement a chance. They have made their case here in the House and before the people of Canada. We have made our case. The majority have accepted the case that we put before them, so it is time for them to give this agreement a chance. We will know in three or four years' time, before the next election, whether or not this appears to be a good deal. If at that time it is still doubtful, opposition Parties can make their case again, but in the meantime, I believe it is only fair and right for them to give this important commercial step forward a chance to see whether it