

dramatically and our trade with Europe has dropped dramatically.

We have always believed, essential though the American market is to us and essential though the United States is to us, that we have always done better, as we have over the last seven rounds of the GATT, internationally and multilaterally in our negotiations with the United States than head to head and bilaterally, because we never believed that we would get an exemption from U.S. trade law in a bilateral way.

We would continue to pursue sectoral opportunities. The Auto Pact was concluded under a Liberal Government. We would continue to look for ways to ease those irritants to trade between the two countries. We are world traders. We want a more vigorous trade policy, but we want a policy which allows us to trade with the world with special and immediate focus on the United States, not just an exclusive deal with the United States.

A Liberal trade strategy will start by reducing and eliminating interprovincial barriers to trade so that we have a free trade market within our own country. We will bring in a comprehensive trade Bill which will make clear our trade objectives, our style of trade financing, and our trade remedies. We will put all the efforts of the federal Government under one roof so that all expertise can be gathered coherently with one single objective, that is to say, to open up markets and enhance our trade opportunities both abroad and continentally.

The trade agreement is also based on the supposition and premise that it can be a substitute for a national economic strategy. No trade policy can substitute for a national coherent strategy on the economy. It must be part of that strategy. We can only make ourselves more competitive. No trade agreement will do it for us. No trade agreement will bail us out. We must, therefore, expand our commitment to research and development and work to develop our education system so that we give our youth the skills that it will need in a tough, competitive world. We will commit ourselves to a full employment strategy. We are committed to better training and retraining for our workforce, particularly for those men and women thrown out of work by technological progress. We are committed to a national literacy program to help those five million Canadians who cannot read or write on a functional basis thereby being denied an opportunity to participate fully in the economy.

● (1350)

In democratic parliamentary terms the Government has no mandate for the motion or the deal before the House. It was not discussed in the last election. The only words we had from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) were in debate in 1983 against the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) for the leadership of the Conservative Party. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance were both against free trade because, to use the Prime Minister's words

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,"It affected our sovereignty", and he would have none of it. That is where he stood. He was right and he should have maintained that. It is for this reason we believe the people of Canada must be given an opportunity to decide. No Government has the right to alter fundamentally the direction, the style and the nature of this country without the consent of a majority of Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): We are still a democracy after all. We are still governed by a parliamentary system after all. I challenge the Prime Minister to call an election. Let the people of Canada decide before this deal is implemented. We cannot block the signing, but let the people decide before this deal is rammed through Parliament and before it is autocratically imposed on Canadians. I believe that when Canadians at long last have an opportunity to examine this deal, to study and look at it clause by clause as we have looked at it, they will reject this deal massively and overwhelmingly in the next general election.

The Prime Minister met the Premiers yesterday. He said in an earlier meeting with the Premiers that, in terms of provincial government support, he is happy. He said that a seven to three score would be good enough in a hockey game in Baie Comeau. It may be good enough for a hockey game in Baie Comeau but it is not good enough for the future of this country. It is not just that simple. I ask the Premiers of this country to read and study this document as we have studied it. Premiers in their comments yesterday said on countervail, on regional economic development, "I have an assurance from the Prime Minister". They said on the binational tribunal, "I have had an assurance from the Prime Minister". They said on the omnibus Bill, "I have an assurance from the Prime Minister". I want to tell the Premiers not to count on those assurances. We know in this House how well we can count on those assurances. I tell the Premiers to read the document and study it.

Provincial Premiers have their own mandates and their own responsibilities, and I respect that. In light of the interest of their provinces as they see fit, they are entitled to take a position. I can understand that. I accept that. But in this House of Commons our responsibility is a national one. We must consider the implications of this deal, of this pact, on behalf of all Canadians as we see them within this federal jurisdiction of Parliament. Even if the count had been 10 to zip in favour of this deal by the provincial Premiers I would have still opposed it because it is bad for Canada and we are going to vote against it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I said when I saw the general principles of the deal in October that I would tear it up. I am going to spend a bit of the Christmas holidays working on the iron to get in shape because the 2,500 pages of