

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

put in place. National treatment will be extended to Canadian businesses in the U.S. All we have from the hon. gentlemen opposite is words about national treatment being extended to American companies up here. Do they not realize that national treatment will be extended to our companies in the U.S. where the market is 10 times as large? This is astounding. All we have ever heard is them complain that we will give U.S. companies national treatment here. Did we ever hear them once say: "My golly, what a help this will be for Canadian companies. They will not be able to act in a discriminatory fashion against Canadian companies in the United States any longer". Do we ever hear mention of that? What is wrong with them? What makes them so vicious, so unfeeling, so unreasonable and so unscrupulous?

Non-tariff barriers such as discriminating products standards will be reduced under the agreement. Access to U.S. federal government procurement will be improved. I have heard Members opposite complain about the fact that the Americans will get a chance to get some procurement in Canada. Never once have I heard them say: "My God, Canadian companies will get a whack at U.S. government procurement". Never once have I heard that. What is wrong with them?

Certain service industries gain freer access. Communications is one of them. Temporary entry for business and service personnel is made easier. Exporters know that access has to be made more secure because the Auto Pact is reaffirmed.

Do you know, Madam Speaker, that only one year's notice is necessary to be given to cancel the Auto Pact? The Americans can cancel it on one year's notice. So can we. Yet the Leader of the New Democratic Party acts as though nothing can happen, nothing can change the Auto Pact. He does not even acknowledge that the Auto Pact was in serious danger of being challenged by the Americans a couple of years ago before we started the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement negotiations. Now that we have the Auto Pact reaffirmed, and the people of Oshawa know the facts, the hon. gentleman will be out in the next election and our candidate will be in. Exporters know that safeguard actions by the U.S. will not apply to Canada if the problem arises from a third country. What the experts call a new sideswipe we have achieved. If the Americans take some action against third countries it will no longer automatically apply to Canada if we are not the problem as is now the case. We have got no credit for that from Members across the way. The Hon. Member for whatever in Winnipeg—

Miss MacDonald. Fort Garry.

Mr. Crosbie:—Fort Garry, or the Hon. Member from Windsor, who should be a firm supporter of this agreement since it does so much for Windsor, sit there knifing it every day. Safeguard actions against Canadian producers will be subject to binding dispute settlement. We have received no credit for that. Countervail and anti-dumping actions will be subject to binding dispute settlement. Other trade disputes will be dealt with through a formal dispute settlement procedure

under the Canada-U.S. Trade Commission. We never get any credit for that.

Members of the Opposition say that binding dispute settlement is of no value and that we are better off without it. What do people in the business world think? The following is what Gordon Cummings thinks. He is the President of National Sea Products in Halifax.

At present we find that the U.S. political lobbyists have been hard at work; that the United States Trade Commission is judge, jury and prosecutor in one; that we stand guilty unless we can prove ourselves innocent—

That is the present position Gordon Cummings says. He is not a member of our Party. I do not know if he is a member of any Party. He goes on to state:

What the free trade agreement can and will do is stop the frivolous U.S. actions, the bullying and the prejudgment that has hurt the Atlantic fishery, and some other sectors I can't claim to speak for, like lumber, potash, pork and tires. I have no reservations in speaking for myself and for National Sea Products when I say we welcome the dispute settlement mechanism outlined in the free trade agreement. And nothing has shaken my strong impression that the rest of the Atlantic Canadian fishing industry feels the same way.

That is the assessment of a senior spokesman for an industry which in recent years has faced six countervail actions and two anti-dumping actions. Other businesses agree. Do they know something members of the Opposition do not know? I would like to know how many countervail actions the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) has been involved in. I would like to know how many actions the academic from Windsor has been involved in. The answer is that they have not been involved in one—not one single countervail action.

Mr. Langdon: How about you, John?

Mr. Crosbie: I have been involved in several. But the gentleman from whom I am quoting has been involved in six countervail and two anti-dumping actions. The only dumping actions that I have been involved in is dumping the New Democratic Party and dumping the Liberal Party. I will go on the rest of my life involved in anti-dumping actions against those Parties.

Binding dispute settlement was a key objective for Canada in the negotiations. It constitutes an important shield against U.S. protectionism.

The following is what Ambassador Allan Gotlieb had to say. He has done an outstanding job for the country in Washington. This might be an appropriate place to mention Simon Reisman who did outstanding work on behalf of his country. He came back from the private sector.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: Gordon Ritchie is another man to whom a statue should go up in connection with this monumental task. He was Simon Reisman's deputy. Alan Nymark who is still with us in the TNO. I could mention, of course, many dozens of others. I should and I will mention my predecessor, the Hon. Member for Vancouver Centre (Miss Carney) who led the whole procedure.