

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

**Mr. Hockin:** Because of protectionism.

**Mr. Milliken:** Does the Government know something the rest of us do not know? If so, I would invite the Hon. Member to tell us.

**Some Hon. Members:** Protectionism.

**Mr. Milliken:** They must have some secret economic studies that show the country is going downhill under this administration. That was not made public in the election campaign and we were told millions of jobs were about to be lost if we did not sign the agreement.

I would like to hear the Hon. Member explain to the House why we were going to lose all these jobs if this agreement were not approved. It is one thing to suggest that there might not be certain jobs created but that was not the statement made. The statement made was that millions of jobs would be lost. I suggest to the Hon. Member that was striking terror into the hearts of Canadians in a desperate attempt to get them to vote for the current Government. It influenced the outcome of the election far more than any scare about any risk to pensions, medicare or anything else that was mentioned, certainly more than any of the stories with which we were regaled in the early part of the Hon. Member's speech.

• (2100)

**Mr. Holtmann:** I am glad I have heard from the replacement of the Hon. Flora MacDonald, and, Sir, I do not think you will ever get your feet into her shoes, fill them well, or understand what you are doing.

Let me return to the subject. I wish to take the Hon. Member back and give him a little history. Four years ago in 1984 when the Conservatives were elected, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised "jobs, jobs, jobs". The Hon. Member shakes his head, obviously he remembers it well.

**Mr. Milliken:** We have heard it all before.

**Mr. Holtmann:** In every Budget brought in by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Turner), and the Leader of the New Democratic Party rose in their places in the House and predicted the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs. In every case they were wrong. The reason the Liberals lost the election is that they have no credibility, and the Liberal Party has no credibility because it has never predicted anything right in the House of Commons.

We have not been wrong in the prediction of jobs created by the Government in four years. We have created 1,000 jobs every day since we were elected. Canadians understood that. If the Hon. Member checks back through his campaign, it was probably his Leader they did not believe any more. It was probably the New Democrats that they did not believe any more, because it was absolutely ridiculous.

The two opposition Parties basically think that Canadians are stupid. The Member accused this Party of promising to create millions of jobs over the years to come. He states that that is fearmongering. With all due respect to the Member opposite, when the United States Marines come in to take our energy, perhaps that is a little fearmongering; or that we are going to pollute all of Canada because there might be some new primary production, that is a little bit of fearmongering. That is really grasping for some reason to oppose the Government.

That is why we do not need a long debate on Bill C-2, because it is nonsense what Members opposite have been telling the House of Commons and the Canadian people for the last week and a half. They have heard it all before, and they do not want to hear it again. It is as simple as that.

I do not know if I am allowed to make a wager, Mr. Speaker, but if we called another election tomorrow we would fill up half those seats on the other side as well.

**Mr. MacWilliam:** Unlike the Hon. Member on the other side of the House, my colleagues and I, including our Liberal colleagues, like to deal with facts rather than with hyperbole, inflammatory statements, and personal accusations. I wish to turn to some of those facts tonight.

The Member mentioned how good free trade will be for McCain Foods. I have an ad that was placed in major papers across the country that stated: "Free trade should be fair trade. The U.S. would not have signed the present agreement if their farm and factory workers were treated like our Canadian farmers and factory workers. There is nothing wrong with the concept of free trade, but this contract is a disaster for the agri-food industry in Canada". One of the signatories to that was a representative of McCain's.

I suggest to the Member opposite that his comments regarding the industry in Portage la Prairie may be modified somewhat. Through discussions with the representatives of *The Western Producer*, Mr. Archie McLean indicated that the McCain's plant may very