

policy. I did not hear a word. All I heard were complaints and grievances against the government, but no suggestions of any policy whatever. Not one.

Mr. Stevens: Let's hear the government's position.

Mr. Sharp: The opposition has no policy. It simply expresses grievances in the hope that when they have to place themselves before the public in an election campaign, the people of Canada will not notice. I can assure the members of the opposition that the completely negative attitude of the opposition is beginning to sink in.

If they have some suggestions to make, let us hear them. Let us hear their social policy. Let us hear their trade policy. We have not heard from any spokesman of the opposition, least of all the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), any indication of the thinking of the official opposition.

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Mr. Stevens: Tell us your position.

Mr. Sharp: I challenge the official opposition on one very simple proposition.

Mr. Woolliams: It will be simple.

Mr. Sharp: The hon. member for York-Simcoe failed to indicate whether the official opposition is in favour of moving toward freer trade or toward more restrictive trade. I listened to the speech of the hon. member for York-Simcoe. He would be in favour of restrictive trade if it would gain him a few votes here, and he would be in favour of free trade if it would gain him a few votes somewhere else. But there was no indication from his party, or from any member on the other side of the House, of what their position is.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Sharp: I heard the hon. member for Halton-Wentworth (Mr. Kempling) speak on the motion before the House, and he made a very constructive speech, I must say a good deal more constructive than that of the hon. member for York-Simcoe.

We Liberals are quite clear on this subject, and I speak now as a private member of the Liberal party and no longer as a member of the government. The Liberals have always expressed themselves quite clearly on this issue. Our view was expressed today by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I have no doubt that my colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald), will express similar views. The Liberals believe in moving toward freer trade. If the official opposition are restrictionists, if they want more restrictions, then let them say so, so the public can judge. So far we have had no indication from the official opposition at all of what their position is.

Mr. Stevens: Let us hear the government's position.

Mr. Sharp: I am expressing the position of the Liberal party and I know it is a view shared by all my former colleagues in

Canadian Trade Policy

government. I expect the Minister of Finance will support the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in expressing a preference for moving toward freer trade if we can persuade the rest of the world to go with us. That is our position.

I had the great privilege when minister of trade and commerce of initiating the Kennedy trade round. At that time the government had a certain policy, which was to make concessions in our tariffs of equivalent value to the concessions that we obtained elsewhere. I think it is generally agreed around the world that at that time the Canadian government made an excellent deal. The value we obtained from the concessions made by other countries was at least as great as the concessions that Canada had to make in return, and that is one of the reasons why over the years there has been such an enormous increase in the volume of Canadian trade.

One has only to go back to the period since 1963 to realize what a transformation there has been in trading patterns in the world. This began with the Kennedy trade round. The attitude of the Liberal government has been amply demonstrated in the position we took in the Kennedy trade round. Now we are in the Tokyo round and our position is the same. We are looking for concessions to open the way for the export of Canadian goods. We are prepared to make concessions, and to make them in such a way as to do the minimum of damage to the Canadian economy.

Mr. Woolliams: Tell us about the deficit, Mitch.

Mr. Sharp: The trade record of Liberal governments over the years is one of the great success stories of the world. This came about because Liberal governments have always been in favour of promoting freer trade.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Sharp: Why is it, Mr. Speaker, that the volume of our trade today is many times what it was in 1963? It is because we were successful traders. We obtained concessions for the sale of Canadian goods.

Mr. Stevens: And the deficit has never been higher.

Mr. Sharp: My colleague, the Minister of Finance, will deal with the question of the trade account; he is much more familiar than I with the most recent figures. However, I make no apologies for the trade record of the government. It is a most extraordinary one, one in which we Liberals can take great pride. It came about as a result of the successful negotiations that we concluded under the Kennedy round, which was the last of the great trading rounds to take place. Now we are entering another round.

The hon. member for York-Simcoe referred to the United States trade agreement which authorizes further negotiations on tariffs. I am sure he is as familiar as I with the nature of the problem that we as a country now face in negotiating this next round, the Tokyo round. The heart of the negotiations lies in the United States, the European Common Market, and Japan. These are the big three that will set the parameters