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FREE TRADE

IMPACT ON CONSUMERS

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Quebec-East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say once more how proud I am that our Prime Minister had the vision to initiate free trade negotiations with the United States.

Quebec and Canadian consumers should also be proud because, according to the Economic Council of Canada, they will be the first to benefit from this free trade agreement. They will benefit mostly from lower prices, a larger variety of products and services, and better quality products. This will be of enormous benefit, Mr. Speaker.

While it is too early to predict exactly how much consumers will save, the Economic Council of Canada forecasts a decrease in the consumer price index of between 5.7 and 7.5 per cent. Based on these first assessments, this would mean that the elimination of tariffs would represent an \$8,000 savings for Canadians who decide to build a new home. What great news for young couples buying their first house!

Mr. Speaker, I know of no one who is not in favor of lower prices, a greater variety of products and services and better quality products. Major household appliances, clothing, bedding and furniture will all be available at lower prices once the tariffs have been eliminated. I think that consumers will be very satisfied with the benefits of free trade. They will certainly be very grateful to the Government.

(1425)

[English]

NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

CRITICISM OF CRUISE MISSILE TESTS

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the United States Air Force will once again test the air launched Cruise missile in Canada today. These tests continue to be an affront to Canada's history as a peacemaker in the nuclear world. The tests continue to undermine Canada's potential to play a large and credible role in disarmament efforts. The tests continue to make Canada a partner in the nuclear arms race.

How hollow have been the Tory arguments that the Cruise missile would be tested until progress was made in Geneva. Arms control progress has been made and we are on the eve of the world's first nuclear disarmament agreement. Yet Canada goes on testing the Cruise, playing its supine role in escalating the nuclear arms race in strategic weaponry.

What a shocking betrayal of the people of Canada and of their belief in the leadership role Canada should play in arms control and disarmament, a role that the Government has now totally abandoned.

TRADE

FISHING INDUSTRY—POSITION OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER ON CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, if the anti-trade position of the NDP Leader is accepted the opportunity to create hundreds of jobs in the fishing industry in my riding will be lost. That is a cost we are not prepared to pay because of ideological obsessions of the NDP.

At the present a U.S. tariff on secondary processing of fish products is a barrier to the movement of value-added fish products into the United States. Consequently, we are exporting fish fillets, and the jobs created while upgrading the fillets are outside Canada. These jobs are Canadian jobs that should exist in Nova Scotia. The free trade agreement will mean the elimination of this punitive U.S. tariff and the reclamation of these lost jobs.

The members of the NDP, however, do not support that. They only want free trade in automobiles. Is that because the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent) represents a city which depends on automobile manufacturing, or is it because the president of the CAW is telling the Leader of the NDP what to do? Who actually leads the NDP—Bob White?

It is time for the Member for Oshawa to be honest with the fishing industry. My constituents are as entitled to free trade in fish as are his to free trade in cars. Can the Leader of the NDP tell us how it is that selling cars to Americans does not threaten our sovereignty but selling fish to them does?

Atlantic Canadians are sick and tired of the hypocrisy and double standard of the Leader of the NDP. He can expect me to continue to expose him for what he is.

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

OPPOSITION TO TREASURY BOARD'S SUGGESTION OF PRIVATE FUNDING

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, the Government is so driven by the profit motive that it is now prepared to sacrifice the health and, potentially, the lives of workers in its quest for the almighty dollar. I refer to the Government's intention to dismember, dismantle and, in effect, repudiate politically the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.