

*Supply*

The North American free trade agreement negotiations constitute one step in that direction. To be competitive in the world our industry must successfully compete in North America.

A North American agreement would benefit the wide range of export-oriented Canadian goods and services producers provide. The NDP motion basically says that if we get out of the FTA, if we get out of the North American free trade agreement, presuming they would want to stay in GATT, we would be left as one country negotiating with 108 others to have everybody lower their barriers. At least history has those barriers coming down.

But what members of the NDP do not really comment on is that while those barriers are coming down, there are some countries in the world where the barriers are coming down even quicker. One needs only look at Europe where in a sense, a free trade agreement has been set up among the 12 European nations, basically eliminating all barriers to trade.

We have the same happening in the Pacific Rim where countries are very quickly dropping their barriers to trade. We have the same thing happening in discussions in South America among some of the countries.

Why would we as a country want to stand on our own and try to get into all those islands of trade liberalization and have to jump hurdles, when in fact we have the potential through the North American free trade agreement of dealing with a market of some 380 million people? It would be the largest market in the world covered under an agreement. That can only benefit Canada.

I talked about the company that has imports from Mexico, and is working with the U.S. and Canadian suppliers. It is successful.

So I suggest that there is no doubt in my mind that there are some clear benefits to being involved in the North American free trade agreement. Of course, until the agreement is really finalized it is hard to say if it is a good deal or a bad deal.

I am not going to stand up and say it is a great deal. I do not know what the deal is. But I think the intent is that we should be there, we should be negotiating, we should be protecting Canada and that is why I am happy to speak today in favour of Canada being exactly where we are right now.

• (1550)

**Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley):** Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to make a brief comment and then put two questions to the member.

I want to say what an important debate this has been today. It is probably a forerunner of the election to come. The only party in the country that is fighting for Canadians is in this House. New Democrats are fighting for Canadians who are losing their jobs because of Canada-U.S. free trade. They will likely in the future suffer even greater job losses because of North American free trade.

Clearly the debate today showed that those people in the New Democratic Party stand up for the working people of Canada and the Conservatives on the other side support free trade all the way. We are not sure what the position of the Liberals is. That is nothing unusual either. We will all have to deal with that in the election to come.

I have some questions for the member. First, we would know with regard to the North American free trade agreement that elected officials from all sides in both the Mexico and United States have had an opportunity, I understand, under security to go in and to look at the current draft agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico, the North American free trade agreement. I would be interested in knowing if he has seen such an agreement from his minister, the Minister for International Trade?

Second, is he aware if any members of cabinet or on his side have seen that agreement?

Third, would he agree that sharing the information in the North American free trade agreement might go some distance to quelling some of the concerns of a lot of people about that agreement? Would he support that kind of openness that is apparently allowed in Mexico and the United States?

If we are to accept his argument that every single job loss could not be attributed to the Canada-U.S. free trade deal—of course many things happen in an economy—at the same time I am sure the member would agree that every single job created in the country since the Canada-U.S. free trade could not be attributed to the Canada-U.S. free trade.