

● (1940)

Let me point out something else. The Government spent at least \$40 million on a program to sell the trade agreement to Canadians. The last time I inquired the Government was still charging \$138 for a copy of the actual agreement. I agree with the Hon. Member opposite. Indeed, Canadians should read and study the full agreement. However, apart from the fact that they would need a special bag to get it home, they have to pay almost \$140 to buy it.

Mr. McDermid: That is not true.

Miss Nicholson (Trinity): The Hon. Member says that it is not true. Perhaps he is going to tell me that the Government has reduced the cost. If so, I will be pleased to hear it. I have been advising people who have written to me to get a copy of the agreement from the library and set up study groups. I believe that once Canadians see for themselves what is in this agreement, even if they are not lawyers, and even though it is technical and needs a lot of careful study and application, they will see for themselves the potential for lack of control over the direction of our social policies and our political future.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, the Member does not know where in the agreement it says that—

Miss Nicholson (Trinity): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I did not say that I did not know. I said very distinctly that I did not have the agreement here and cannot point it out.

Mr. McDermid: That is not a point of order, that is debate.

Miss Nicholson (Trinity): It would be nice if the Member would tell the truth once in a while.

Mr. McDermid: The point is that there is nothing in this agreement anywhere that says we must harmonize social programs.

I want to correct the Hon. Member because she is way off base tonight. This is the agreement. It is available free in the office of any Member of Parliament. The Member is talking about the package which the House of Commons has put together including the free trade agreement, the Bill, and the two tariff schedules, the American tariff and Canadian tariff schedules which together are as thick as a telephone book. That has been packaged together and Queen's Printer is charging that rate.

There is no charge for the agreement at all. These are available to Members of Parliament of all Parties. This is the agreement in whole and it is free of charge to the public. The Member made a very misleading statement to the House tonight and I hope she will stand up and apologize.

Miss Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I stand by my statement. That to which the Hon. Member is referring as the agreement is a summary of the agreement.

Mr. McDermid: No, it is not. It is the agreement.

Miss Nicholson (Trinity): It is the Conservative selective proposal. Indeed this has been made available free of charge to

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all Members. Any citizen who read that and thought that he or she had the full story would be gravely misled.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, as I listen to Hon. Members in the Liberal and New Democratic Parties I have to conclude that history repeats itself. The last speaker again reiterated that we will lose our sovereignty. Other speakers in both opposition Parties are saying that we are selling out to the United States, that they are going to take over our industries, that they are going to come in and run the country.

I heard that in the early 1940s when the Alberta Government, of which I was a part, wanted to get our oil and gas developed, we could not get a dollar from eastern Canada or anywhere else in Canada. We went to France and to Britain. No one would invest their money and take a chance on the oil and gas in Alberta. The Americans came in and spent millions of dollars.

When we arranged with the Americans to come in to find our oil and build up an oil and gas industry, the Liberals and the CCF at that time vowed up and down that we were selling the country, that we would lose our sovereignty and our social programs. Well, the Americans spent millions of dollars and today we have a gas and oil industry of which Canada can be proud and which the Liberals tried to eliminate a few years ago with the national energy policy.

We have an oil and gas industry in Canada because the Americans risked their money. We did not lose one social program and we did not lose any sovereignty. They did not take over our country. They did not run our country. They lived according to the rules we set. Under this agreement the Americans will live according to the rules set by the Canadian and provincial Governments. They will not run the country. We can get a tremendous benefit from this just as all of the country has benefited from the oil and gas industry which was developed. All the threats, fears, and gossip put out by the Liberals and the CCF in 1940 was complete hogwash. There was nothing to it. This agreement can give us tremendous industries and we will not lose one iota of sovereignty.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Crofton): Would the Hon. Member care to make a brief response? There is one minute remaining in the period for questions and comments.

Miss Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member opposite says that our American friends have abided by Canadian and provincial rules. I agree. My criticism of this agreement is that it sets no rules.

Mr. Kilgour: Mr. Speaker, does the FTA not in fact enshrine the Auto Pact, which is so important to families in Ontario and Quebec, to the degree that the termination of the Auto Pact by Congress would in effect require the termination of the entire FTA? If the Member's Leader were to tear up the FTA, as he has promised to do, would Congress not very quickly give notice of his intention to cancel the Auto Pact because of the dwindling support in Congress for it and its perceived excessive benefits to Canada?