

deeply held today as it was once. I hope so, for it is here over the next four years that the future of Canada for generations to come will be determined.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, we have just been through an election campaign during which, thanks to the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition, Canadians at last began the necessary process of thinking together about their economic future and therefore about the kind of country in which they wanted to live. This process is far from over.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be part of the new wave of Quebec entrepreneurs. This Government has nothing to teach me about the benefits of freer trade, but I tell you—

[*English*]

You want a job? Is the Minister of homelessness still talking? The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) referred to me as a free trader. I am a free trader. But we are not debating free trade here; we are debating trade disarmament.

[*Translation*]

What was the purpose of the negotiations, if not secure access to the American market? Did we get it? No. The Government's strategy failed and the results of this failure will be felt by generations to come. The resulting agreement is neither fish nor fowl, a sectorial agreement with all the advantages of a comprehensive agreement, one in which the Government has almost set aside its role in the economy for years to come. Our problem was and is that the Americans refuse to accept our subsidizing our industries, while they refuse to admit that they subsidize theirs.

[*English*]

The Government sought greater access to the American market, but in fact by failing to come to an agreement on the definition of subsidies before signing, it lost ground. By putting off that decision, the Tories have jeopardized whatever possibilities of success might have existed. Second, they have effectively negated the ability of the Canadian private sector to work with its Government as does the private sector of virtually every other modern state in the world.

Mr. McDermid: Why is the private sector supporting us?

Mr. Martin (Lasalle—Émard): Why do you not try to listen, you might learn something.

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Mr. McDermid: Why is the private sector supporting us? What a silly statement.

Mr. Martin (Lasalle—Émard): Are you telling me? I have been in the business world for four years while you have been—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I would like Members to address their remarks through the Chair.

Mr. Martin (Lasalle—Émard): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. It is hard when faced with ignorance.

[*Translation*]

The problem is that the Conservatives do not understand the mechanisms of the world economy as we near the end of the century and that is why the next four years will be decisive. That is why the Liberal Party will play a key role. That is why we will be there to see how subsidies are defined.

[*English*]

We will be watching to see if the Government fights for a definition of subsidy that simply does not protect existing programs but provides for new ones so that new opportunities can be created in Atlantic Canada and so that the western base can be diversified.

[*Translation*]

Yes, we will be there to minimize the harmful effects of this Agreement on our social programs, our agricultural sector, our cultural industries and our environment. We will watch the American takeover of our small and medium-sized businesses, because without these companies, we would lose any possibility of creating our own multinationals. We will be there to see whether the Government allows the Americans to say that our subsidies are unfair, while their billions for Star Wars, as part of their industrial policy, are not.

[*English*]

We will be watching to see if the Government allows the Americans to continue to restructure their economy by using the unique Chapter Eleven bankruptcy provisions and claim that that is not a subsidy while claiming that our modernization grants are a subsidy.

We will be watching to see if the Government allows our export subsidies to be restricted while the Americans use massive domestic subsidies to prevent our exporters from gaining a foothold in their market.

We will be watching to see if the Government adopts the American model of industrial development which works for them but which cannot work for us if we are