

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

pesticide. Yet, the U.S. found that the benefits outweighed the risks and it continues to register Alachlor.

Not surprisingly, the manufacturer has argued that Canada's licensing rules should be changed to reflect the American criteria. The free trade deal will weaken Canadian pesticide regulation. The effect will be to trade the adverse impact on Canadian health and environment in a return for greater profits to the transnational chemical industry.

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That is clearly unacceptable. The citizens of Kent are concerned that this Government will not even consider amendments which would safeguard our ability to ban, inhibit, or restrict the use of pesticides or chemicals, an ability which is cast in doubt by Schedule 7 of the Free Trade Agreement.

What about the environment in general? The constituents of the riding of Kent have a heightened awareness of this Government's poor record on the environment. The northern parts of Kent County draw their water from the Sinclair River, an international waterway and a waterway that is threatened by chemical spills, blobs, and waste water.

The residents of North Kent, which comprises the native reservation of Walpole and the Town of Wallaceburg and the Town of Dresden, want a clean water pipeline from Lake Huron so as to eliminate the threat of spills and to permit them the same quality of water as that available to the City of Sarnia.

This Government has repeatedly said that the free trade deal is not about the environment. In fact, the environmental significance of the trade deal has been apparent from the outset. As early as June 1986, this Government's own environmental advisory council called upon it to conduct a public and thorough assessment of the implications of the Free Trade Agreement, and this before negotiations were concluded.

The advice of this Government's own advisory council on the environment was ignored.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Crawford: In response to the critics of the trade deal, the Government is now claiming that the environment is protected under Article 609 of the agreement and under Article XX(B) of the GATT.

This Government's claim that nothing in the trade deal prevents Canada from regulating to protect the

environment is entirely false. Its strategy appears intended, once again, to capitalize on the fact that most Canadians have not read the Free Trade Agreement.

One is left with the impression that the environmental concerns were not omitted recklessly or inadvertently. The Government has drawn attention to sections of the Free Trade Agreement and the GATT which, we are told, concern the environment; but neither provision applies to the very parts of the Free Trade Agreement of greatest environmental concern.

By raising Article 609 and Article XX(B) of the GATT, the Government underscores its total failure to protect the environment from the worst impacts of the Free Trade Agreement. The only conclusion left is that the framers of the deal were careful to make sure that their major objectives were not stopped by any concern for the environment.

There is no mention of environmental protection anywhere in this trade deal. As a consequence, the implications for the environment are not clear. No environmental impact study of a Free Trade Agreement had been carried out by the Government before, during or after the deal was signed.

As well, Canada may face pressures to lower our standards to American levels. Canadian business could argue that our stronger regulations in such areas as acid rain emissions, air pollution, liquid waste disposal, and the use of pesticides could put Canadian companies at a competitive disadvantage.

Ms. Copps: Shame. Another sell-out.

Mr. Crawford: The Ontario Environment Minister agrees that subsidies given by federal and provincial Governments to reduce pollution emissions may be attacked by American companies as unfair subsidies. The definition of "unfair subsidies" is to be decided over the next five to seven years. Pollution control subsidies and subsidies related to the environment have not been excluded from this deal.

Mr. Chairman, this Government's concern for the environment takes second place to its concern for big business and the profits of big business, with no concern for the environment.

The auto industry is of prime importance to the riding of Kent. Because of our proximity to the major car manufacturers, our auto parts factories have grown and prospered. The auto pact has played an important role in that success.