

Supply

Lavalin, SNC or Alcan Canada lose their cultural identity because they gained access to the American market? No, Mr. Speaker. All Canadians and all Canadian Governments are proud of these companies. They have developed an international market. They got involved, and that is why the Free Trade Agreement will be a success.

The basic principle here is that, to expand, our economy needs foreign markets. It cannot expand and excel unless it has those markets. The two Opposition Parties are against this principle. They are against creating jobs here in Canada. They will not accept the fact that we can develop markets. They forget or refuse to admit that 80 per cent of our exports with the United States are subject to customs duty. They claim that Canada's farm producers have lost their marketing boards. They don't understand. The marketing boards are protected. The Minister of Agriculture said so. We had a special debate on this, and the NDP Members are now saying that it does not stand up.

Mr. Speaker, they spent the whole day telling us they did not have the final text so they could not make a final judgment, and now they are telling us: No, it is not protected. We are going to lose our cultural identity and our social programs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say,—you are signalling that my time is about to expire—that the Free Trade Agreement in Canada and the United States is first and foremost an economic agreement, an agreement based on enterprise, job creation, and opening up international trade. Mr. Speaker, as a Canadian I am proud to take part in this kind of debate, to make this economic choice, because we in the Progressive Conservative Party are not afraid of the challenges of international trade. We are not afraid of meeting the challenge of the markets, especially the U.S. market, and although there are those who would have Canadians believe they should not ask for more, we say that Canadians can be competitive on international markets. We have the credibility and we have the know-how. That is what the two Opposition Parties tend to forget, but we will be there to remind Canadians.

● (1740)

[*English*]

Mr. Hopkins: Mr. Speaker, I just want to correct the Hon. Member because I am sure he would not want to leave on the record the kinds of inaccuracies which he committed in his speech just now. He made a statement that the Liberals and NDPers were offered a briefing by the Government, and that is absolutely wrong.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) offered a briefing to the Leader of the Liberal Party and to the Leader of the NDP, but he said: "Boys, don't say a word about it. You can't say a word to your own caucus. You must be entirely secretive about it". That is the kind of democracy we have in Canada today.

The Hon. Member mentioned the word "democracy" many times in his speech. We have a Prime Minister of Canada who is going to brief the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader

of the NDP, and then he says: "We offered a briefing to the Liberals and to the NDPers". That is absolutely wrong, and I am sure the Hon. Member would not want to have it on record.

The Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie) said this afternoon that he has been in the House for many years. He said that no Member of Parliament is expert on all subjects, and then he went on with his deliberations. I want to say to that Hon. Member that no one has exemplified that fact any better than he has over the years in Parliament.

The Hon. Member also talked about this tremendous agreement and what great things it will do for Canada. If this agreement is so tremendous, why is the Hon. Member, his Party, and the Prime Minister ramming it through? We are about to get the details of this agreement, many hundreds of pages of material. Parliament sits next week and then it adjourns for Christmas. The Prime Minister is to sign this agreement on January 2. When we come back in January, it will be gone. Is that what he calls democracy?

We get the same old rhetoric from the Government day in and day out. If the agreement is so tremendous, why is the Prime Minister in such a great rush to get it through? Why did he not have the details before the House long ago?

The American Congress is going to take many more months to debate it than it had originally planned. What is wrong with Canada? I will tell him what is wrong with Canada. It is that we have a Government today that does not believe in democracy. It does not believe in free discussion. It does not want the people of Canada to know the details of the agreement. It does not even want Members of Parliament in the opposition Parties to know about it before it has been sent south of the border.

They think that it is a bad thing if they inform people about what is going on in the country, and that the more they can keep from them the easier it is to slip it through—slither it through, let it go south of the border, and let the American Congress handle it from there.

I say to the Prime Minister, to the Hon. Member who just spoke, and to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Assiniboine that this so-called deal is not a free trade agreement. Let us stop calling it a free trade agreement. It is a deal cooked up by the Government and by the Reagan administration, and they expect to sell it to the Canadian people—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but we have one minute left and I would like to give the last word to the Hon. Member so that he may reply.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Champagne (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, this shows the inconsistency of Liberals. We offered it to both opposition parties. This is true. We did offer both parties, including the Liberal leader, to sit at the negotiating table and to act as a