

that will endanger our social programs. Even if the Americans wish to discuss this matter during the next round of discussions, they will be told that this subject is "off limits".

[Translation]

The Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States will benefit fishermen as much as processing industries.

The economic viability of a fishing industry depends on the availability of resources, the quality of the raw material and a good return on investment.

As the processing industries gain a larger share of the American market, Mr. Speaker, demand for processed fishery products will increase. This greater demand in turn means a higher return on investment from fishing.

This Agreement meets these concerns and gives the Canadian fishing industry an opportunity to strengthen and improve the vital role it plays in the Canadian economy.

[English]

New jobs and new opportunities are there around the corner for the fishermen of Manicouagan, for their families and for the future of their children. Opposition Members from the Maritimes and Newfoundland also know that, but political blindness prevents them from seeing the real benefits of the Free Trade Agreement for the fishing industry.

• (2430)

We have heard through the debate the question of mandate.

[Translation]

My mandate in the riding of Manicouagan is very clear: there were 36,000 on the electoral list, of whom 28,000 voted. The NDP received 4,000 votes, the Liberal Party 6,000 and the Progressive Conservative Party 18,000, Mr. Speaker.

That is my mandate to support the Free Trade Agreement. Tomorrow, I will return to my riding and I will meet my fellow citizens over the holidays with my head held high and with pride. I will speak to them proudly about the historic decision made here tonight by the Government of Canada in ratifying the Free Trade Agreement with the United States. I will speak to them with pride for having participated in this historic event by supporting Bill C-2 without reservation.

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

[English]

Mr. Lyle Vancief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House tonight at 12.30 a.m., on December 24, one of the last speakers to take part in this great debate, a debate and discussion that will probably go down in history as one of the longest and greatest debates ever to take place in Canada. This debate has and will likely shape the future of Canada.

I come here with mixed feelings. First, I would like to reiterate the feeling of probably most of the new Members who came to Parliament in the last few weeks, and all of us in the House, the feeling that we have after winning an election, and the feeling that we have walking up to the front of this great building, not as a tourist as many of us have in the past, but as a Member of Parliament. But when I returned to the riding of Prince Edward-Hastings I said to my constituents that it was a feeling to which I could not put words. I know everyone else who sits in the House has felt the same way at one time or another.

It is a pleasure to rise in the House tonight to represent the constituency of Prince Edward—Hastings. It is a unique riding. It has a large agricultural base, a large industrial base, a large tourism industry, and we have in our riding the Air Transport Group headquarters for the Canadian Armed Forces. We are also fortunate to have the Tyendenaga Indian Reserve, a reserve of 1,500 to 1,600 Mohawks belonging to the Bay of Quinte Band.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the voters in Prince Edward-Hastings for placing their trust and faith in me to represent them here in the Thirty-fourth Parliament. I promise to fulfil that trust and faith with honesty, integrity, and enthusiasm.

My riding is made up of all of Prince Edward County in Ontario, the City of Belleville, and the three southern townships, including the County of Hastings.

I happen to live in Prince Edward County, and I suppose that I am a little biased, but it, as well as the whole Quinte area, is a great place to come from. We are cut off by a man-made canal in Prince Edward County, and frequently are mixed up with Prince Edward Island. We are also proud of Prince Edward Island, and this Party is really proud of Prince Edward Island now.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Vancief: We in Prince Edward County have shared ourselves with different constituencies over the years, sometimes to the east, sometimes to the west, and