

*Supply*

else. Who is it left with? What mess is Ontario in today?

Opposition parties should not be blinded by partisanship and the automatic gut reaction of always saying no to something the other guys do or wish to do. Is it not more responsible to be realistic and honest with decision making that affects not only members and political parties in this Chamber but workers and families and businesses across the country?

That is why rather than being irresponsible the New Democratic Party ought to be concentrating on the economic approach of this government and the alternatives now that it is into a leadership campaign or so-called coronation campaign. It should be revisiting the last eight or nine years and putting pressure on the government to come up with answers. This is rather than hearing the minister of trade at the Toronto economic summit call for the very purposes of trying to get Toronto moving again. It was a litany of all the great things that this government has done for Torontonians, as if Toronto has no problems.

Our friends in the NDP to our left missed the opportunity. Rather than trying to put this government on the spot, they have irresponsibly tried to hit someone along the way with a motion that really does not say very much. Quite frankly, it is convoluted and a waste of time.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre):** Mr. Speaker, I think that my colleagues from the NDP have clearly shown in their motion that they have gone too far. Too much is too much! The only thing they forgot to include was the promise that we would all go to heaven when we die.

I think that everyone who followed the debate on the free trade agreement realizes, as I am sure my colleague would agree, that the whole world was moving toward free trade. That is obvious, because we live in a world where free trade is the way to prosperity. But after signing this agreement with the United States the government opposite neglected some things. Even the Canadian Manufacturers, Association says that there should have been a transition period to analyze the potential consequences of this agreement. We know that we could have helped some very specialized industries in

our country if the United States did not respect the spirit of this agreement.

So I ask my colleague if we had a transition period and programs to support industries by helping them during this period, which could have been five years, does he not believe that we would have been better able to benefit from this agreement if we had foreseen the dangers that such a treaty with the United States might contain?

[*English*]

**Mr. Marchi:** Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague raises a very important point which I had failed to mention in my limited time in which to address the subject. That is the whole question of adjustment programs.

• (1650)

Again I ask the House and particularly members of the governing party to think back to that 1988 campaign. The Prime Minister in a fit of tremendous rhetoric promised the greatest transitional adjustment programs in the western hemisphere, not only ever seen in Canada or in North America, but the greatest number and most effective adjustment programs in the western hemisphere.

That was the election where there was third party advertising and large corporations wrote all their employees. The threat was on that if you did not sign on your job would be in jeopardy. The free trade agreement would lead to thousands of jobs. However, just in case you as a worker or a company were affected the Prime Minister promised the greatest adjustment programs ever seen in the western hemisphere.

It would be fair to say that a good number of Canadians believed the Prime Minister and believed and trusted the government. This is notwithstanding the fact that if one looks at the total number of people voting for our party and the New Democratic Party then obviously more people were against the free trade agreement than there were in favour. However, there are many Canadians who essentially trusted and put their faith in the words spoken by the Prime Minister. Those same workers today are without jobs and have no transition programs and no adjustment assistance.