

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

with the U.S. will mean to Sarnia. Polysar, the Economic Development Commission and the Sarnia—Lambton Chamber of Commerce were very positive. No wonder I am here.

The small business community is very positive about trade. We are interested in promoting tourism but, of course, that is not talked about by many people. The Free Trade Agreement is certainly of importance for tourism. Restrictions on travel agents and hotel managers will be removed and tariffs on the very important equipment needed for the hospitality industry will be reduced.

I want to end by saying to all Hon. Members that the voters of Sarnia Lambton have spoken and the voters of Canada have spoken after having an exhaustive debate on free trade, and they have spoken in favour of free trade. We as a Government accept the responsibility for implementing this very important agreement.

Ms. Catterall: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I think the Hon. Member who just spoke caused some problems for all the women Members in the House. He spoke about speaking to the farmers in their fields and going to the kitchens to talk to their wives. As any farmer worth his salt, his plough or his fields knows, the women on the farms are as likely to be found in the fields as they are in the kitchens, operating the same equipment, doing the same work.

On behalf of an organization known as Women for the Preservation of Agriculture, I want to say that anyone in this Chamber with any association with agriculture knows that that organization is making an extremely valuable contribution to the recognition of agriculture as an important industry and an important way of life in Canada.

The Hon. Member's remarks were a direct reflection on my privileges as a Member of this House. During the election campaign, I suffered the indignity of putting up with a gentleman who walked into my campaign office and told me that women belonged in one of two places, in the kitchen or in bed. As long as those stereotypes of women persist, neither I nor any other woman in this House, or indeed working anywhere in Canada, can expect to be respected for her competence, her ability and her dedication to her job in the same way as a man.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The matter raised by the Hon. Member is no doubt important. However, unfortunately for the Hon. Member, I cannot consider it as a question of privilege according to the rules of the House.

Mr. Bob Wood (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Nipissing for the support and confidence they have shown in me by electing me to represent them for the next four years. The people of Nipissing, like most Canadians, are not opposed to freer, more liberated trade as such. They recognize fully the benefits which have accrued to Canada because of the liberalization of trade laws between Canada and the United States. The people of Nipissing realize that they must live in the real world and cannot isolate themselves from others.

I must point out that the people I represent resent the suggestion that they are fearful and timid by nature because of their concerns regarding this trade agreement. These people are self-reliant, independent people who are quite accustomed to standing on their own two feet. They do, however, look to Government to protect and to nurture those things that are important to them, namely their jobs, their families, their environment and all aspects of their lives that are uniquely Canadian.

The concerns of the people of Nipissing are concerns directed to the great uncertainties inherent within the proposed Canadian trade agreement with the U.S.A. These people do not regard the Canadian-American trade agreement as a mere commercial treaty. They view it as a document that has the potential for going right to the very heart and nature of Canada and what it means to be a Canadian.

These concerns are not unique to Nipissing. I would point out to the Government that only two of the 11 Members elected to the House of Commons last month from northern Ontario were government Members. The concerns of the people of Nipissing and northern Ontario are very real and deeply felt. I urge the Government to recognize these concerns as valid and to take them into consideration in the upcoming negotiations with the United States.

The number one fear of the people in my area stems from the fact that the definition of the term "subsidy" has been purposely left up to negotiations with the United States. The Hon. Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) said earlier this week in the House that he is still not sure if they will be successful in those negotiations over the next few years.

A succession of federal Liberal Governments has recognized regional economic development grants as legitimate economic tools for fostering economic growth in underdeveloped parts of the country. Nipissing and all