

Government Orders

The Canadian people have to understand beyond the specifics of this particular very bad piece of legislation exactly what political scenario is being played out in this country. This particular bill is a focus for that. The government of the day unabashedly represents a right wing, neo-Conservative philosophy that has no flexibility whatsoever, but it is to be admired that it is adherent at least to a philosophy.

I disapprove of the North American free trade agreement. I disapprove of its philosophy. Frankly every Canadian should be shocked and alarmed that after eight years in power this government has turned this country upside down, hopefully not irreparably. It was a course that was set out deliberately by the Prime Minister and we should not be alarmed.

We need to be alarmed about where the Liberal Party sits on this issue. I want to go through step by step what is playing out and what will play out over the next year. Along with the Crow rate this particular legislation once it is passed in this House will be enshrined in perpetuity under the North American free trade agreement. We will have a bill in the House to ratify the North American free trade agreement come spring.

After that bill is passed in opposition by both the Liberals and the New Democrats the next scenario will be a federal election. During that election the Liberal Party will take the position: "Oh, my goodness, the bill is passed; we can do nothing about it". I want to alert the Canadian people to a timetable that the Liberal Party has not reckoned with and is ticking away.

The government is clear. It has taken its position. The Liberal Party opposite is opposed to it. Once it is passed it will say: "We can do nothing about it".

However, the target date for Canadians to focus on is January 1, 1994 when this bill and the impact on the Crow rate to farmers and all the other damage done under the FTA will be folded into the day of reckoning of the implementation of the North American free trade agreement.

It will not be a question of abrogating, it will not be a question of renegotiating. It will be a question of political will of implementing.

I am warning every Canadian to understand that by the time January 1, 1994 rolls around, there will be a new government in Canada. That government will face the question of whether it meant it when it said in this House that it will not go along with this kind of legislation. That government will face the day of reckoning of whether it was telling the truth about its commitment against the North American free trade agreement and that will be during the election campaign.

The people of Canada will ask a simple question. If the Tories are elected this will go ahead. If the Liberals are elected, will they implement the North American free trade agreement that folds this act in on January 1, 1994?

I want to say on the record that the New Democratic Party has said that should it be elected to government before January 1, 1994, it will not ratify the North American free trade agreement. This is not renegotiation. This is not abrogation. This is ratification.

If the Liberal Party is telling the truth, then we insist that its leader stand up today or as soon as possible and let the Canadian people know whether it is playing a charade in this debate or whether it means it. The way to let the Canadian people know if it means it is to pledge here on the floor of this House that should it be elected the next Government of Canada, it will not implement the North American free trade agreement, that way preventing this bill and the loss of the Crow rate to take place.

I want to understand and say very clearly that in my opinion the Liberal Party is hiding behind the Conservatives, talking against this bill, fighting against it, but then when the chips are down on implementation, when it is there in government, it will say it is too late to do something about it.

I want to look into the camera and tell the Canadian people how this can be stopped. The only way this can be stopped is by electing a government that says come January 1, 1994, it will not implement the free trade agreement with the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.