

Government Orders

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Barrett: Who is this billionaire in the United States that has all the attention of the talk shows and has all the attention of MTV? I never knew what MTV was until the election happened. Who is this fellow out of nowhere who picked up 20 per cent of the vote in the United States and appeared before a committee in that country? One Ross Perot. He would not vote for me and I am not sure about Ross getting my vote. But as a billionaire, he is that symbol of everything this government adores and believes in, the accumulation of massive wealth by a handful of individuals, the definition that the Tories would love to have as a candidate. That billionaire said if we signed this agreement with Mexico, Canada and the United States all we would hear was one big sucking sound as jobs left the United States and went into Mexico.

Mr. McCreath: Point of order, Madam Speaker. I am enjoying the remarks of my hon. friend. In order that he might finish his remarks and others might have an opportunity to participate I wonder if I might seek unanimous consent of the House to sit through the lunch hour.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The motion cannot be moved on a point of order, but unanimous consent was sought and was denied.

Mr. Barrett: Madam Speaker, I could ask that the rules be suspended and the government pass a motion that no closure will be used on this bill. It will have my support. Of course that is something I may address in a few minutes.

Madam Speaker, do you believe that the Canadian people had an opportunity to examine this closely? Do you believe that the people in Montreal, the people in Toronto who represent the visible minority community, ethnics and other communities which are suppressed economically in this country because of the kind of capitalist system we live under are participants in this kind of debate? They are deliberately at the bottom of the economic ladder because of policies of this government and preceding governments. Yet these people will be wooed by that government and by the Official Opposition without ever hearing a word of this debate and understanding the implications for them as new Canadians.

• (1255)

New Canadians will be among the first victims. Those who are generational in this country, the women, the marginalized workers, those across this country who have never had a chance to break through to the good life that the Prime Minister likes to boast about, will also be victims of this agreement.

Are there going to be town hall meetings by the official candidates for the Conservative Party on this issue?

An hon. member: No.

Mr. Barrett: Will there be an opportunity for reporters to ask: "How do you feel about this loss of sovereignty on the efficacy of drugs or of toxic things?"

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Barrett: Do you think that the government will travel to each community where jobs will be lost and stand up and say: "I know it is painful, I know it is going to hurt you, but it is for the greater good?"

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Barrett: Do you think that this government will lie again?

Some hon. members: Yes.

Mr. Barrett: Do you think that this government will say we will have massive retraining, as it promised in the de Grandpré report, and then lie again?

Some hon. members: Yes.

Mr. Barrett: Do you think that it will further harmonize in this country unemployment insurance legislation, health care, and every other part of the social fabric so that we can be forced down to the level of the United States, and not force it up to our level?

Some hon. members: Yes.

Mr. Barrett: Let me give you a specific example about that, Madam Speaker.

As the wife of the President of the United States travels through that country seeking to find a solution to the terrible problem of the lack of health care for a significant number of Americans, the Americans are looking to Canada as a possible solution. They are looking at Tommy Douglas' solution.