

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

and that we need to maintain enough of the levers of our own economy to make it possible.

I hope that the Government realizes that, as it stands, the trade deal puts us head-to-head with the U.S. Defense Department's \$35 billion annual R and D budget, a budget specifically excluded from the terms of the deal which, to remain competitive, will tend to lead us to an even more militaristic economy. To avoid this we need to ensure that the few R and D incentives that Canada has will not be declared unfair trade subsidies, and also devise a realistic and permissible strategy for boosting research and development in areas of our own choosing.

I hope the Government re-acquires the right to use its purchasing power to foster and give a leg up to selective Canadian industries. I hope the Government reserves the ability to implement programs such as the national stock ownership plan suggested by the Liberals in the election that would increase ownership of Canadian firms by Canadians and not leave us totally at the mercy of foreign investment.

I hope the Government holds firm to its commitment that our social programs and regional development programs remain sacrosanct. Furthermore, I hope that the Government does some of the things it should have done long before even contemplating a comprehensive bilateral trade deal with the U.S.

I hope the Government takes measures to reduce interprovincial trade barriers. I hope the Government negotiates with its provincial counterpart—I am speaking particularly here of Ontario—for the construction of a much needed and long overdue four-lane highway south of Ottawa to Highway 401. The completion of Highway 416 is of great economic importance to the National Capital Region.

I hope the Government simplifies red tape for small businesses ensuring that they can get start-up capital, good employees and good advice.

It has been a great pleasure to speak in this House today. I have appreciated the opportunity to express my hopes as a Liberal and to express my hopes for the federal Government of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Darling: Madam Chairman, I am delighted to have the opportunity to participate in the debate today. I am not a new Member of the House. I want to thank the electors of the great riding of Parry Sound—

Muskoka for returning me for a sixth term to the hallowed halls of the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Darling: One cannot hide one's age if one is in public life, especially if one lives in a rural area. Of course I have to admit, and am proud to admit, that I am from that very illustrious class of 1911, and still going strong.

I might have had reservations four or five months ago when the election was going to be announced. As my colleagues will know, we were not the highest in the polls at that time. I think we were running third. But a great many of the very influential people in my riding came to me and said: "Well, Stan, we think you can win the riding despite our being low in the polls. We want you to throw your hat in the ring". As a result I am here today.

I have listened with interest to a great many of the speeches. I want to congratulate all those new Members of Parliament, even though I suppose my tongue is in my cheek concerning certain ones who replaced some very dear colleagues of mine who went down to defeat. But that is politics, and that is the way it is.

As I was thinking back I remember in the last election some of the very vociferous members of the Liberal Party, two of whom are no longer here. They were speaking in most derisive tones of the many Progressive Conservative Members from the Province of Quebec. They were saying: "You're surfers. You're here one time and then you're gone". Early in the mandate of this Government I thought of that and I said: "Well, by golly, it is tough in Québec, and it is unusual". But lo and behold two of those who were most vociferous are gone. Instead of our 57 Members from *la belle province* we now have 63. Some pretty high-priced help and high-profile Liberals went down to defeat.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Darling: I have heard a great many of the new Members saying that they are here for one reason only, and that is to speak on the free trade issue and voice their opposition to it. That is the reason they are here. They are going to do their best to filibuster it. Some have in some ways tried to stop the inevitable. The Leader of the Opposition, the Right Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra, said day after day after day last July, August and September: "Call an election. Let the people decide". That great exponent from Oshawa who believes in free trade only for Oshawa and not for any of