

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

When the ore became more difficult to extract, the demand lessened and the money left. One can guess what the people of Kirkland Lake were left with—the shaft. Those mine shafts have since disappeared.

Cobalt is another mining town that had the same problems. The same is true for Elliot Lake. We know what happens when there is no industrial base. The question that was always asked when these towns faced those problems is: Why did you let it happen? It is as if the people knew what was happening to them. The fact is that we had no control over our economy.

The people of northern Ontario are concerned that we are giving up control of our economy with this particular trade deal. That is what is happening.

If there had been a way to retain a measure of control, the deal would have been much more palatable. That is what bothers us the most. We know the difficulty in creating jobs. We know what happens when resources are shifted to the south. The jobs were not created in our town when we had the resources; they were created elsewhere. We are telling Canadians that this is what will happen now. The jobs will be shifted south and that is what worries northern Ontarians, especially the people of Sudbury.

There is no doubt that the deal is flawed. The Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) said that he did not get a definition of subsidies but would work on it. He did not know whether he would be able to get a proper definition of subsidies because that has never been achieved.

The Government has signed a contract without being able to negotiate a certain part of it. It concerns the definition of subsidy, about which no one in history as been able to agree, yet the Government says that it will do so in the next five to seven years.

It is my understanding that a Progressive Conservative is usually a business person. I submit that any business person who signs a contract without finalizing a clause like that would be gone. A contract containing a clause like that eventually comes back to haunt you. I am worried that the clause in this deal will come back to haunt us.

The Conservative Government asks us to trust it. As parents, we do not tell our children to trust everybody. We ask questions and make sure before we trust anyone. I do not want to trust the Americans. They are not bad people, but they are like us. They want what is best for

themselves. I want what is best for my children, my family, and my town. There is nothing wrong with that.

Sudbury has gained good control of its destiny and has been able to do so with the help of all sectors in our town. If we are turning our destiny over to the Americans, which is essentially what is happening, I beg the Government to be especially careful and helpful to those regions that will be affected.

I believe that when the definition of subsidies is discussed, our regional programs will be judged unfair. The pressure will be on the Government to cut back on the subsidies. We must be firm.

The Government has given us guarantees. The Prime Minister gave us all kinds of guarantees in his election speeches. He said: "Trust us, we guarantee there is nothing in the trade deal that will affect social programs". The problem is that there is nothing in the deal.

We asked the Government to include some amendments. If it is clear that nothing will affect our social programs, would it have been so difficult to include a clause stating as much? The Government stated throughout the election campaign that there was no problem. The reason it would not add an amendment is that it knows it cannot do so because it does not have permission from the Americans.

The Free Trade Agreement will make regional subsidies a thing of the past. This must not be allowed to happen. All regions in our country must be given the opportunity to prosper.

• (1700)

*[Translation]*

Why would the multinationals ever want to continue operating in Canada if they can have the same benefits elsewhere? Think about it. In Canada, businesses have to pay the cost of all our social programs, we have minimum wages, all sorts of things. We take all those programs for granted. We say: Yes, we have them, all our very own.

In Canada, corporate taxes are used to finance bilingualism. After all, one thing is clear, we are a bilingual country.

Do you think that, given the choice, businesses will want to locate here instead of in the United States, where they could avoid those taxes and costs.