

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

Every time the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition says it is the sale of Canada Act, he is accusing these people of being traitors who want to sell out Canada. He is not only accusing members of the Government and every one in the Cabinet, and Premier Bourassa, Premier McKenna, Gerry Regan and Donald Macdonald, but he is accusing pork producers, the Cattlemen's Association, John Bullock, and all the rest of them, of being traitors and wanting to surrender Canada.

The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition was asked by the *New York Times* about business people who are saying: "John, you are on the wrong side of history". He is not only on the wrong side of history, he is on the wrong side of the street. He is on the wrong side of everything one can conceive. He is just wrong. I quote Mr. Turner's reply:

The business organization that has been most vocal in strongly supporting this trade deal has been the Business Council on National Issues, and a considerable percentage of their members are American-owned.

Can you now understand the answer, Madam Speaker? Do you see the innuendo: "These jerks cannot be true Canadians if they support free trade". That is the suggestion of Mr. Turner's answer. He says a considerable percentage of the members of the National Council on Business Issues are American owned, so how can we trust what they say? This is a man who used to sit with them and sup with them. He used to send his bulletins out to them, the McMillan, Binch bulletins. He got back into public life in 1983, and we were a long time waiting for him. He was just there at the right time. But Mr. Turner supped with these people, he was retained by them. He took their fees. He lived with them. And he said we cannot trust their views because a very considerable percentage of them are American owned. That is the innuendo, we cannot trust them. Well, he was wrong, as he has been wrong so often in this debate.

The Business Council sent him an open letter saying that over 90 per cent of the assets and about 75 per cent of the control of member companies of the Business Council on National Issues are in Canadian hands. Who signed the letter? David Culver, the Chairman of Alcan, the very respected Canadian business leader, Chairman of Noranda, Alfred Poulis, and Thomas D'Aquino, in their capacity as officers of the Business Council, signed that letter and they pointed out the following:

By embracing the rule of law, the (free trade) agreement offers Canadians greater security and opportunity... In our books that is a plus for sovereignty.

These are responsible spokesmen for Canadian business and they deserved to be treated as such. They do not deserve to have it suggested that they are unpatriotic, that they are dictated to by Americans, that they are not even Canadian owned, when the fact is that 90 per cent of their assets and 75 per cent of the control of those companies are in Canadian hands.

Let me add one other quote from a respected business leader, Mr. Laurent Thibault of Canadian Manufacturers' Association. He stated:

The Canadian Manufacturers Association's support for the free trade agreement represents a dramatic change for this association. Historically, Canadian manufacturers have been among protectionist voices. However, the world economy has changed dramatically and we must change with it. The new trading environment created by the FTA obviously poses great challenges to Canadian manufacturers, but the consensus among our Members is that the FTA is a necessary strategic step that will help achieve our long-term objective of becoming globally competitive.

That is the position of members of the CMA which, historically, have been protectionists. That is why Sir John A. Macdonald's policy was developed. It was to protect manufacturers. In other parts of the country for 100 years the woods have welled with the voices of those protesting the tariff policy that protected Ontario and Quebec and exposed the rest of Canada which was cut off from its natural north-south trade. This is being changed by the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement.

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The CMA recognizes that the world economy has changed dramatically. We must change with it. Who does not recognize that change must be dealt with? The Canadian labour movement does not, nor does the New Democratic Party. The people who now say they control the Liberal Party but who won't control it much longer do not. After the deluge in the next election they will be washed out to sea.

What the free trade agreement is all about is Canada becoming more competitive in all export markets. Why is free trade with the U.S. important for our position as an exporter globally, not just to the U.S.? As Donald Macdonald's commission pointed out, we are the only major industrialized country without secure access to a market of at least 100 million people. We have secure access to no market but our own—26 million Canadians. That is the only secure access to a market that we have. We have a chance to have secure access to the U.S. market under this agreement. The United States has access to its own huge market. Japan has access to its own burgeoning market. The countries of the European Community have access to the huge European Community of 320 million people. If Canada is to continue to develop world-class enterprises, we must be capable of competing and winning against the best in the world. Bell Canada and Northern Telecommunications come to mind as two such enterprises.

In the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement there is a breakthrough in services. All other GATT countries are watching Canada and the Canada-U.S. agreement to see how the services provisions will work. We are trying now to negotiate services provisions with the 95 nations that are involved in GATT. We have broken new ground. Madam Speaker, did you ever hear that mentioned by the Opposition Parties? Of course not. The Opposition is dismissive of the gains we have made in achieving more and enhanced access to the U.S. market, but those directly involved in the day-to-day business of exporting know better. What do they know?

They know that under the agreement tariffs will be phased out between Canada and the U.S. Better rules of origin will be