

substantially and that means prosperity for the community, not only in taxes paid but, more important, in the jobs that will be sustained and created.

He continues:

The Canadian market is simply not big enough. Worse, without free trade, U.S. protectionist policies will limit and erode Canada's export potential. An alternative for our firm may be to service the American market from plants located in the U.S. And that loss would invariably be deeply felt by those local retailers who currently serve our 1,000 employees.

As these examples illustrate, the Free Trade Agreement will continue to bring more and better jobs to the residents of Kitchener and Cambridge.

In June of this year Prime Minister Thatcher spoke to Parliament. I want to remind Hon. Members of some of her comments. She said:

Britain has learned that it is not Government which creates wealth, but people, provided Government has policies which encourage them to do so.

We have also got away from the debilitating concept of the all powerful State, which takes too much from you to do too much for you, constantly substituting the politician's view of what the people should have, for the people's own view of what they want.

Later in the same address she said:

Protectionism is not the lifebelt which keeps an economy afloat. It is a millstone that drags you down and penalizes consumer and workforce alike. Subsidize the inefficient and soon that is all you have; you lose the competitive edge to export abroad and keep prices down at home.

In my riding of Cambridge local industries and companies have continually emphasized the need for improved productivity, with dedicated and innovative people, the superior application of technology and the new opportunities offered by the Free Trade Agreement. I am confident that the future of the riding of Cambridge is strength and growth, within a truly independent Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jim Karygiannis (Scarborough—Agincourt): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to stand to speak for the first time in this House on behalf of my constituents of Scarborough—Agincourt. I want to thank them for giving me the opportunity to come here.

Last weekend when I was in my constituency the people I met were continually asking about the free trade deal. One business man I know, a man who is a well known Conservative supporter, wanted to know what the fuss was all about, why didn't we Liberals just let the Bill pass and get it over with.

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I am sure that many of my colleagues across the floor are wondering the same. I asked the man: "Would you sell or buy a house of any kind, or any kind of property without first studying the terms of the contract and discussing it with your family? Would you venture into a major business deal with another company without first making sure that all the cards were on the table and that credit was good at the bank and that all your business partners knew what was going on? That is what we are doing." There was no argument.

I explained that as an informed businessman he may have a good idea of how the present free trade pact might affect his business. What about those Canadians who have very little or no working understanding of international trade and business? Do they have any less right to know or feel assured? What about the small local storeowners or textile factory workers who work long hours just to make ends meet, who cannot afford to pay a mortgage and may never own their own homes? What has the Government said to them, either to inform or assure them that they will benefit from free trade, other than there would be some fall-out from the gains made by multinational corporations which will be the real beneficiaries of the deal?

Again there was no argument because this gentleman knew, as we all know, that the Conservatives nearly lost the election because they arrogantly and mistakenly thought that the less the public knew about free trade the better. They wanted to believe that it was a non issue.

Before the beginning of the election campaign, I believe that 99 per cent of Canadians knew nothing about the GATT negotiations, much less their connection with free trade.

I told this man that the track record of the Government is that it has never said once, from beginning to end, what its real intentions in proposing this Bill have been. It has never come clean with the public or the House, to spell out in simple terms who will really benefit and who will really lose once the trade Bill becomes law.

Many are bewildered that our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) now hails this deal as Canada's salvation when, prior to 1984, he insisted that he did not even want to hear mention of a free trade pact since it meant the loss of Canadian sovereignty.