

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

His attitude was one of "trust me". Many people in the North believe that they were forced to trust the Prime Minister, our federal political representative, when he met in secret in the middle of the night with ten Premiers to finalize the Meech Lake Accord. Many of my constituents believe that the Accord makes northerners second-class citizens in this country. They also state that the provincial Premiers protected their constituents, but that the Prime Minister, our sole representative, did not do the same for us.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Member for "Arctic Power" forgot two very basic things. First, Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully remind her of the First Ministers' conference with the native people in 1985; I was there myself. This conference almost resulted in an agreement, except for internal problems with the native people themselves. Secondly, I would remind her that she belongs to the Liberal Party, Mr. Speaker, the same one—imagine—that imposed repatriation of the Constitution in 1982 without the agreement of not only the native people but also, Mr. Speaker, the Province of Quebec, the birthplace of the French-speaking people, one of the founding nations. She belongs to a party . . . She criticizes us for not having included the Indians in the Meech Lake Agreement. But back in 1982, Mr. Speaker, her own party imposed the Canadian Constitution without the consent not only of the Indians, but of the French-speaking people of Canada. That is no mean feat! That is really something! That is why the people of Quebec, in 1984, told them: "Get out! Enough is enough!" Enough is enough, indeed! In 1988, it was no fluke, Madam. Last year, in Quebec alone, the people realized that we were capable of governing them well. They realized that we were able to identify with and respond to their true aspirations. We don't have any magic solutions, but we have an open attitude, we are able to listen and to discuss. We don't impose things. We don't want to go down in history as a party which says: "This is how it's going to be. And that's that. We're the boss." A country does not work like that. That is no way to govern. But that's what the Member from "Arctic Power" tells us. Surely there are limits, Mr. Speaker.

She has forgotten, just like the Member from LaSalle—Émard (Mr. Martin). How terrible . . . He says he is going to watch us. But how long has he been a member of that party? I don't know if he remembers—in any case, his father was there at the time—when Mackenzie King actually told the Canadian people, the people of Québec in particular—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would ask the Hon. Member to confine himself to the amendment.

Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I am simply quoting the words of other Members and trying to show that their assertions are false and misleading.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, the Member from LaSalle—Émard warns us that he will keep a close watch on us as we implement not only the agreement but our policies. I want to remind him that—if he was not a Member of this House, his father was—Mackenzie King told French-Canadians that there would be no conscription. We voted him in power, and the first thing he did was to impose conscription on French-Canadians. You will recall, Madam, that, in 1972, Mr. Trudeau made fun of the then leader of the Conservative Party, Mr. Stanfield, because his French was poor. Mr. Stanfield had, in fact, proposed wage and price controls, and Mr. Trudeau made fun of him at the time. In 1975, the first thing he did was to control wages, not prices, mind you, but wages! In 1979-1980, Madam, the Opposition defeated the Clark government over an increase of 18 cents per gallon of gas. When Mr. Trudeau got back in power, he increased the price of a gallon of gas to a whopping \$1.80, and during that time, he imposed the Constitution without the consent of Quebec. Imagine that, Madam. That is what Quebecers and Canadians in general have finally understood. That's why they voted like they did on November 21.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, and this is important, there are a lot of farmers in my riding. As you know, the United States is by far the most important market for our agriculture. And the Free Trade Agreement gives us a better access to that market while at the same time protecting our supply management systems which are essential to our agricultural sector. Remember what the leaders of the agricultural sector did, at least in Quebec. They asked for additional guarantees with respect to what was originally proposed in the agreement. We agreed with them, first by adding to the list of protected goods milk products like yogourt, ice cream, and so on. We then specifically included in the agreement article 11 of the GATT in order to protect our supply management boards. We not only protected them, we retained the right to create additional ones.

That is what our farmers in Lotbinière and in 45 rural ridings in Quebec understood because they also knew that Canadian sales of farm produce to the United States total \$3,7 billion and that it is important to them to secure or increase their access to that market. That's what they voted for on November 21!

Mr. Speaker, some people want to tear up the Agreement in order to improve it! You cannot improve on an