

corridor of the Speaker's chair. Hon. Members began leaving the Chamber by twos, and then by fours, and then in droves, until there was one lone MP sitting across the aisle.

The new MP on his feet kept talking, fixing his gaze on the lone MP, and when he finished his speech, he crossed the floor, and with tears in his eyes shook the man's hand and said, "I want to thank you for your presence. It gave me that something, that inspiration to carry on. Your attention made it possible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart". The man said, "Don't thank me, I'm the last speaker!"

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth): I dedicate that story to my predecessor and friend, Father Sean O'Sullivan, whom we all wish Godspeed during these difficult days at this time of year.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth): I want to thank the people of Hamilton—Wentworth for electing me for the fifth time. Without their trust and their confidence in me, I would not be here.

I also want to say congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker. You too have the confidence of this whole House of Commons, of Members from all sides of the House, in the position that you occupy, and you are doing a fine job, Sir.

Let me, in the spirit of Christmas and ecumenism, say congratulations to all the new Members on all sides of the House for the excellence of their maiden speeches. At least the parliamentary television groupies across the country can testify that there is a lot of talent in this Thirty-fourth Parliament, and for some of us who have been observing and participating in this place for several years, it is good to hear strongly and freshly held and expressed views in this Chamber.

I am proud of my Leader, the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), for achieving history with this Free Trade Agreement. I am proud of his great salesman for the Free Trade Agreement, the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie). I am also proud to say a few words during this debate on behalf of the city that I represent and love, Hamilton.

We in Hamilton are especially proud of the fact that we are Canada's fifth largest city and we are famous for the industry that stands to benefit most heartily from

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

the Free Trade Agreement. We make steel, very good steel.

This Free Trade Agreement that the House of Commons will pass a little more than two hours from now signals the beginning of a shiny new era for Canada's steel industry. Perhaps that is why we have not heard during these long hours of debate a whole lot of mention by the opposition Members of the quality steel and quality people we have in Canada. That is why we never hear about the security of Hamilton's 23,000 jobs which are directly related to the making of steel, or of the tens of thousands more indirect jobs and spinoff products that benefit from the steel industry. I am not surprised. This is one of the innumerable and irrefutable good features of the Free Trade Agreement.

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We in Hamilton and in Sault Ste. Marie are producing the world's finest steel. Nowhere will you find a more classic example of an industry where we not only can compete with the best in the world but we already produce the best in the world. Now we will have a market to prove it. Of course, the opponents to the Free Trade Agreement do not like to point this out, but this Free Trade Agreement will be as strong for the Canadian economy as the strength of steel itself.

Let me just turn to an article by Ken Romain of *The Globe and Mail*. He put it as succinctly as anyone could:

Because of the strength of the Canadian economy and persisting demand, the companies are operating at near capacity. The market is tight and orders from customers are on an allocation basis. The steel makers are squeezing every last pound of steel they can from their plants.

Mr. Romain goes on to quote William Wallace, executive vice-president and chief operating officer of Dofasco:

In our view if you look at our business and that of our customers, it is a really good picture. We have got customers doing a lot of really good and gutsy things.

But we have to develop and maintain the capability that keeps us in business with them and to provide value, quality and price in the product. We see the whole thing as a process of globalization.

We have got to be good enough at what we are doing and our customers have got to be good enough at what they are doing with the product that we sell them to be able to withstand the South Koreans, the Japanese, and the West Germans and the French, who also use excellent products, and are turning it into good automobiles, for example.

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