

This is one of the realities we have to deal with. This is why you cannot take a dogmatic approach. We in the Liberal Party believe much of the damage done to Canada's industrial heartland, much of the de-industrialization is part of the free trade deal with the United States. but only part of it. They gave us free trade with the promise of more exports and greater access to the American market. Well, we did not get the secure access.

As I indicated in my opening remarks, at the same time this government increased the value of our dollar by 28 per cent. It gave the Americans a 28 per cent advantage in selling into our market and not buying from us. Then it put our interest rates up to a record, more than 5 percentage points higher than the Americans. Well, how can we compete under free trade with that? The whole problem is not just the free trade. Some of it is going to take place anyway.

We, in our party, have committed ourselves to undoing some of the harm of the Canada—U.S. Free Trade Agreement. In particular, we do not believe that the Americans should have a pre-emptive right to buy all Canadian resources at world prices, even if there is a shortage in Canada. We believe that Canada should have the right, in certain cases, to help its suppliers by giving Canadians less than world prices in order to create jobs here. We want to be able to further manufacture our primary resources in Canada and create the high paying jobs here. I am not prepared to accept the provisions in the free trade agreement that deal with the unlimited right of Americans to further take over Canada's economy.

These are areas which I want to see renegotiated. I am not sure that exercising the six-month clause is the best way to do it. The reality is our government, like it or not, is taking us to the table of the Canada—U.S.—Mexico free trade deal. We as a party do not have our head in the sand like the NDP. We believe we have to be there in order to protect our interests. What we do not think is that this government that gave us the same deal with the United States is competent to give us a good deal with Mexico.

While we recognize the global realities, the globalization of our world marketplaces and our world economies,

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we are not naive, as the NDP often is, about the solutions to some of these things. The answers are very complex. It is not just free trade or no free trade, it is a question of being there to work out the best deal for Canada over the longer term.

This is our commitment and this is how we would approach any of the trade deals.

I want to thank the member from Windsor who has given many thoughtful comments to this House, who has presented many good ideas in terms of how to bolster the strength of Canada's economy, and we look forward to hearing in detail his remarks at a later moment.

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COMMENTS OF LEADER OF NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to address an issue that was raised last Thursday when I was not in the House by the deputy leader of the Liberal Party concerning remarks I had made on the previous Wednesday about an amendment to the amending formula on the Constitution.

I welcome this opportunity to clarify very briefly my remarks.

I accept the correction made by the deputy leader of the Liberal Party that I was incorrect in saying that the—

Mr. Marchi: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. I know that the hon. member, the leader of the New Democratic Party would like to respond as we hope she will to the question she raised. I would ask her if she would be indulgent enough perhaps to do it following Question Period and allow us to complete the debate at least until two o'clock on this opposition day motion.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I have to remind the hon. member for Yukon that the question and comment period was over and that it was on that understanding that I recognized her.

Ms. McLaughlin: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier.