

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We have just debated Motion Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. A vote on Motion No. 9 will apply to Motions Nos. 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, so the question is on Motion No. 9.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 114, the recorded division on the motion stands deferred.

We will now deal with Motion Nos. 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, and 25. They will be grouped for debate and will be voted on separately.

● (1220)

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry) moved:

Motion No. 17

That Bill C-130 be amended by deleting Clause 8.

Motion No. 19

That Bill C-130 be amended by deleting Clause 9.

Motion No. 21

That Bill C-130 be amended in Clause 11 by adding immediately after line 29 at page 5 the following:

“(d) that appointments to such committees, panels, commissions or other bodies ensure representation from consumer groups, labour and business.”

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor) moved:

Motion No. 22

That Bill C-130 be amended in Clause 11 by adding immediately after line 35 at page 5 the following:

“(3) One such committee that the Governor in Council may establish, under this section, shall monitor and review matters arising out of the Act or the Agreement, including

(a) the adjustment impact on company workers and communities;

(b) the activities, economic viability and ability to compete within a given sector of all companies doing business in Canada and the United States of America; and

(c) agricultural pressures in Canada resulting from the agreement.”

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry) moved:

Motion No. 23

That Bill C-130 be amended by deleting Clause 11.

Motion No. 25

That Bill C-130 be amended by deleting Clause 12.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this grouping of amendments carries with it a number of important presentations which were brought forward during the course of the committee hearings. As much as those committee hearings were restricted, limited, and short-changed, we still managed to hear approximately 50 groups of the several hundred that wanted to be heard. Many of the groups brought forward items very crucial to the wine and grape industry in British Columbia and Ontario.

A number of organizations, consumer associations, and labour groups quite vividly pointed out that during the course of discussion about trade they had never been consulted, never been asked for their opinion, and never been given any opportunity to present their case.

I want to deal specifically with Motion No. 17 which moves to strike out Clause 8. Clause 8 is a very simple clause. It says that we should approve the agreement. I am here to argue that this legislation should not be approved and the agreement should not be ratified until there is an election.

There are some very fundamental and simple rules about democracy. We can get very complicated and bureaucratic, but basically 2,500 years ago people started putting forward the assertion that there was a certain popular will that had to hold Governments accountable and would express itself from time to time in the decisions of a community. The Greeks had a wonderful word for it, *civitas*, a sense of obligations and responsibilities of the people. At that time people participated directly in government. They were required to show up on a monthly basis at a forum and take over part of the responsibility for making government work.

As this democratic system evolved we came to a representative system. Citizens did not participate directly but elected others to do it for them. In our parliamentary system they elect a Government, and the Government is given a mandate for a certain number of years to exercise that popular will, always subject to the fundamental rules of democracy; the right to fair and open speech, the right of citizens to be heard, and respect for certain liberties.

Throughout each stage of consideration of this trade deal those principles have been compromised. At every step along the way there has been a deliberate design to frustrate the proper role of democratic institutions.

I cite as an example the cabinet document which was revealed about two years ago on communications strategy. It said very clearly that the role of the Government should not be to inform Canadians but to sell them on the trade deal. The document said “don’t inform, sell”. That document was actually discussed and agreed to by Cabinet. That set the tone.