

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

that he was asked to do was to shut down Schefferville, which he did with a great deal of satisfaction. This was his job and he had no hesitation. Then he was arm in arm with Ronald Reagan in Québec City singing *When Irish Eyes are Smiling*.

Then it came to negotiate the trade deal, which some people have called the sell-out of Canada. It is not the sell-out of Canada. When someone sells something they receive something in return. This is a giveaway of Canada. There was no selling. We got nothing. We have lost it all.

When one looks at the trade deal it carefully describes at some length what the United States is. It states:

"United States" means

(a) the customs territory of the United States, including the fifty states of the United States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico,

(b) the foreign trade zones located in the United States and Puerto Rico, and

(c) any areas beyond the territorial sea of the United States within which, in accordance with international law and domestic laws, the United States may exercise rights with respect to the seabed and subsoil and the natural resources thereof.

That is a very precise definition of what the United States is. When one looks through the pages and pages of the deal, there is no definition of Canada. There are two equal players in this negotiation, the Americans and the Canadians. The United States went through a great deal—

Mr. McDermid: Read the Customs Act, that's exactly where it is.

Mr. Riis: I ask the Parliamentary Secretary, why was the definition of Canada left out of this document? Perhaps the Government did not care about Canada. I do not think that it cares about Canada—

Mr. McDermid: It is in the Customs Act, and you know it.

Mr. Langdon: It is not part of this Bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would hope that there would be some courtesy on both sides of the House. The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap has the floor.

Mr. Riis: I find it odd, and the people of Canada will find it surprising that in the Canada-U.S. trade deal the Government went to a great deal of pains to describe what is meant by the United States, but forgot to describe and define Canada. The Parliamentary Secretary probably says that the Americans know where Canada is and know what our boundaries are. They do not know where our boundaries are on the west coast.

Time and time again the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) has raised the question of the A-B line where the Americans want to get critical fishing and resource grounds off our west coast. They do not accept the definition of the boundary between Canada and the United States on the west coast.

We all remember Georges Bank on the east coast where year after year American and Canadian fishermen were arguing what part of the fishing grounds is part of the United States and what is part of Canada. There is no recognition by the United States there. As a matter of fact, when the Americans look under the polar ice cap, which is obviously part of Canada, they state that these are international waters and it is not part of Canada.

You may remember, Mr. Speaker, when the Americans were issuing drilling licences in the Beaufort Sea they stated that that was part of the United States. Whether it is the North, the East, or the West, the Americans have proven time and again that they do not understand where Canada is. Therefore, I find it absolutely incredible that the Government did not include a definition of Canada after going to so many pains to establish a precise definition of what the United States was all about.

This is simply one of the many reasons why Canadians from coast to coast, as they learn more about this deal and what it does to their country, are rejecting it. Seven out of ten Canadians have said time and again that they want an election on this issue. The Government is jamming and rushing this issue through. Earlier today it gave notice that it was going to announce closure to muzzle the debate and jam and rush this legislation through before an election. Seven out of ten Canadians will be offended and feel affronted if they do not have an opportunity to register whether or not they support this deal. The Government ignores them and ignores the parliamentary process and the process of democracy.

I do not understand how Hon. Members on the government side can sit there day after day, hunkered down, not say anything, and accept this incredible abuse of the democratic parliamentary system. Yet they do. They are mute as they sit in their seats hour after hour.

I see the Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone) is present. I hope he will stand up and explain to the House why he feels we do not need a definition of Canada in the trade deal. I also hope that others will. The Government went to a great deal of pain to get the definition of the United States of America, but Canada, forget it. We do not need a definition of Canada, the Americans understand it. The Americans do not accept our west coast borders, our east coast borders, or our northern borders of Canada.

This Government stated that it did not want to travel across Canada and hold hearings so that the people of Canada can express their views. It curtailed what is obviously the most democratic thing to do when talking about such an important trade deal. It should be taken to the people and let the people have an opportunity to decide. At least let the people have an opportunity to express their views. Members of the Government said absolutely not. They did not want to hear from Canadians. They were not going to tour. We suggested televising the hearings so at least people could sit in their livingrooms and listen to the debate and the witnesses, but no