

and it exacerbated the problems we had before we got into the deal.

Much has been said about the negative effects of free trade. I do not think that anything negative can demonstrably be shown to be untrue. For example, let us talk about wages. This morning someone referred to the fact that the wages in the United States were not lower than they are in Canada. In the third quarter the average wage in Canada was \$19,337. Adjusted for the exchange rate the average wage in the United States was \$18,500. The average wage in the sunbelt, which would include the grand and glorious peach state of Georgia, rounded out and adjusted for the exchange rate, was \$16,000. I would suggest that an average loss of \$3,000 a year for someone going into that country will certainly be significant.

I could go through the list of the average wage for all the 20 sunbelt states, but it is rather long and depressing. Nevada is the only state which has consistently been above the U.S. average. Those are the types of states that our businessmen and people are so fond of saying they are going to move their businesses and industries to when free trade comes in. There is no way in the world that we as Canadian people can be threatened with our businesses and industries going there. Of course, prior to them moving there they will say to their employees that they are going to have to take lower wages, benefits and fringes, or else the company will move there.

There is no justification for the Government getting into such a deal with such a nation, certainly if one wants to start on the elementary level of wages. Employers will force their citizens to take lower wages or else those companies will move out. That is an unjustifiable position in which to put our people. It puts Canadian citizens into the intolerable situation of blackmail.

Let us look at education and compare our education to what is available in some of the southern states, the situation that those people who already live in those states find themselves in, and which undoubtedly we would find ourselves pressured into accepting. The expenditure per pupil in the public schools in the sunbelt states is an average of \$3,713. In the United States itself it is an average of \$4,063. The 1987-88 estimate for Canada is \$5,037 expenditure per pupil in our public schools.

• (1730)

I suggest that that is something we have to look at. We cannot accept the lower standard of living that those lower wage standards would force upon us.

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Fisher:** We should take a look at life after—

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** I have to inform the Hon. Member that his time is up.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Tremblay (Rosemont):** Madam Speaker, I rise for the first time in this House.

First, I would like to thank the people of Rosemont for allowing me to represent them and work with the members of this House for the development of Rosemont, Montreal, Quebec and Canada.

It is also a privilege for me, Madam Speaker, to rise for the first time to debate an issue so vitally important to all the men and women of Canada.

We have before us a Bill to implement the Free Trade Agreement that was signed by two sovereign nations. This Agreement is the result of lengthy negotiations with our main partner in trade and our closest ally. It was deliberately entered into by this Government to ensure the long-term prosperity of all Canadians.

The question before us as Members of Parliament is simply this: Do the people of Canada support the will of this Government?

Madam Speaker, I call upon the democratic spirit of the honourable members of the Opposition. All during the election campaign, I heard Liberal and NDP candidates voice concerns about the impact of the Free Trade Agreement.

A minority of them have since been elected to this House, yet they still sing the same song. They have not learned anything, Madam Speaker. They are still worried about our social programs, our regional development programs and our labour programs. They are concerned about everything. They are even concerned about Canada's sovereignty.

Madam Speaker, they have yet to understand that we must come to a decision about a piece of legislation to implement the trade deal. This trade deal is a major and even an essential factor of the Canadian development strategy, advocated by our Government.

But, Madam Speaker, Canadians readily understand that the agreement must be judged in the context of the Government's strategy as a whole, the employment strategy, the regional economic development strategy, the research development strategy, and so on.