

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

(Mr. Malépart). He said: "The Liberals would tell Canadians we won't negotiate one deal with the U.S. but several deals with other countries. We won't put all your eggs in one basket. Eventually Mr. Turner will make public a series of principles of accord on which any Liberal free trade deals could be based".

This is the Malépart version. He said: "This thing wasn't dreamed up overnight and dropped on the caucus just like that, said Mr. Malépart, the MP for Montreal—Sainte-Marie. It was worked out after a lot of thought. We relied heavily on findings of various public opinion polls".

Oh, is that what the task force was doing, looking at all the little public opinion polls to see what their tattered trade policy should be and then support strengthening the GATT two years after the process started?

The Ottawa Citizen of June 14: "A liberal government would not only scrap the free trade agreement with the United States but would not try to renegotiate in hopes of striking a better deal". That is very sensible. Not only going to scrap it, they will not even renegotiate it. This is John Turner: "At a news conference Turner said the deal is not negotiable". This is truly incredible. That is the policy, apparently, but it changes every couple of days. Then we have John Ferguson from Southam News on June 14 who did an analysis of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry's pronouncement, and I highly recommend everyone in the House read this. He says: "But if Canada isn't going to take on the U.S., where else are we going to peddle our wares? Well, it is all laid out in a new trade policy of the Liberals released Wednesday".

We are going to conquer the world, that is what the Liberals are going to do. It says: "The Liberals think we will get clobbered in any head-on competition with the Americans under free trade but we're going to knock them dead in a Pacific Rim, bowl them over in Europe, and have them begging for mercy in Latin America". All we have to do is follow these simple steps. These are the simple Axworthy steps: "Shake up the bureaucracy again to recreate the old department of industry and trade".

You know, the ones the Liberals uncreated in 1982 to move all the trade people over to the Department of External Affairs. That was a jim-dandy. That is going to revolutionize the world. Yes, Sir, we are going to be able to knock them dead in the Pacific Rim when we do that, bowl them over in Europe and have them begging for mercy in Latin America. Funny, in 1982 they told us that making trade part of External would "result in a greater priority in trade objectives, in the conduct of our international relations, give greater emphasis to the international marketing of resources and services, and strengthen Canada's ability to adapt to change in world economic conditions". Where was the Hon. Member in 1982? Why, he was in the Trudeau cabinet that was scrambling up the trade department, putting it into External Affairs, which this year he says he is going to unscramble and put back

because this will enable us to take on and conquer the world. That is some policy.

Then he goes on to analyse. Research and development, that part of the GNP which goes to that, will be increased. They are going to go to Geneva where the negotiations on GATT are taking place and convince the Americans to change their trade laws so that any company losing a countervailing duty case would be required to pay the legal costs of importers who have to defend themselves. How are they going to persuade the Americans to do all these things? Having slapped them in the chops, having torn up the free trade agreement, having told the U.S. we do not care about them, having said we could care less about them, you are going to go GATT where 95 nations are present and tell the Americans what they are going to do, how they are going to change their trade law to allow higher levels of subsidies on imported goods into the U.S.? Has there ever been such a travesty of a trade policy put forward by anyone in any form in such a shape that is so laughable and so ludicrous if it was not so dangerous?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: The Liberals hope to improve especially the GATT dispute settlement mechanism, and so do we. We started the process two years ago. In mid-December we will be having the mid-term meeting of the 95 GATT countries in Montreal trying to achieve those objectives, having done two years of work getting ready for it. We both have the same objectives there.

We have taken a lead role in the working group which is now seeking to improve the dispute settlement under GATT. Peter Bentley, Chairman of Canfor in B.C., pointed out:

We have no assurance about when the current Uruguay round of GATT will be completed.

Remember that. No assurance on when it will be completed. It could take years. He says:

In the meantime we could find ourselves in the embarrassing position of being unemployed and bankrupt if U.S. protectionism prevails before this event took place.

That is a perfect answer to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry's so-called trade policy, dependence on GATT. We could all find ourselves in the embarrassing position of being unemployed and bankrupt if U.S. protectionism prevails before this event took place. That is what the honourable gentleman wants Canadians to do, throw aside the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement that would give them some protection and wait and wait and wait for 95 countries to agree at GATT. It is astounding. Premier Bourassa said this:

There is no contradiction between having multilateral trade and having a free trade treaty with the United States.

My comprehension of, my appreciation and admiration for Premier Bourassa goes up day after day. He might be a Liberal but, by God, he has his head screwed on right. Gerry Regan is a Liberal but his head is screwed on right. Donald Macdonald is a Liberal but his head is screwed on right.