

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Madam Speaker, you know that social programs are protected.

- e) The provinces continue to require the processing of logs and fish before export.

That is wonderful!

- f) The exchange rate of the Canadian dollar (its value compared to the U.S. dollar).

That continues.

- g) Agricultural marketing programs and agricultural price supports are maintained as well as the right to establish new ones.

We have the right to do so.

- h) Canadian clothing manufacturers can use foreign fabrics and export their products duty-free to the United States.

That is maintained.

So, Madam Speaker, if they try to tell me that this is a customs union, a sell-out to the Americans, if they try to scare me, if they try to tell me to do what the NDP Members have suggested, . . .

● (2020)

[English]

Let us march from the cradle to the grave, except this time they want us to march with crutches. We are not going to do it. We are not going to do it in the Outaouais, we are not going to do it in Québec, and we are not going to do it in Canada.

Mr. Jack Harris (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Conservative Government has chosen to limit debate on the trade agreement, Bill C-130, and that I am only permitted to speak for 10 minutes in this debate.

Mr. Crosbie: Why did you try to block it? Why did you have all these hours of wasted time in Private Members' Bills? Don't be such a hypocrite.

Mr. Harris: Therefore, I must limit myself to the most important issues in this debate by setting out on the record—

Mr. Crosbie: You were afraid to have the Bill debated. You tried to stop it for a month.

Mr. Harris: The Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) does not want to hear the other point of view.

Mr. Crosbie: You don't have a point of view. You do what you're told over there.

Mr. McCurdy: You are unparliamentary, John, just like "hypocritical".

Mr. Harris: Madam Speaker, despite the objections of the Minister for International Trade, I must put on the record my belief and my concerns about what this Government is doing to Canada and to Newfoundland.

First, let me say that New Democrats do not oppose but do support a gradual elimination of tariff barriers that is done in

a way that is fair to Canada and that allows time and provides for programs to help in any adjustments that must be made. What we have here is not that kind of program at all. This Government has acted in the interests of multinational corporations and their Canadian subsidiaries and partners to give them a free hand to act as they see fit. This Government wants to leave future Canadian Governments powerless to control the destiny of Canada in the interests of average Canadian men and women who do not own multinational corporations and whose livelihoods and well-being depend on having a Government they can trust to act for them.

We in Newfoundland were all shocked when we heard that the Minister for International Trade who represents the riding of St. John's West had not even read the agreement. We know that he tries to be a buffoon as part of his big act, but most of us in Newfoundland thought that at least he did his homework, that behind all the quick wit was some knowledge about what he was talking about and a belief, at least in his own mind, that he was right. We were all wrong, and I join with the *Montreal Gazette* of Wednesday, June 29, in which an article read:

So that's it. The reason Trade Minister John Crosbie keeps making such preposterous statements about the Canada-U.S. free trade deal is that he has not read it.

The Minister for International Trade has called this trade agreement the Auto Pact for Atlantic Canada. He has obviously not read that agreement either. If he had, he would know that under the Auto Pact American companies had a choice. They had a choice either to pay the tariff or guarantee jobs and production in Canada in return for access to the Canadian market. If the Minister had read the trade agreement, he would not be calling it an Auto Pact.

Article 1603 of the agreement reads:

Neither Party shall impose on an investor of the other Party, as a term or condition of permitting an investment in its territory, . . . a requirement to . . .

- d) achieve a given level or percentage of domestic content.

Those are the kinds of requirements that are contained in this agreement. It is the removal of any obligation and of any possibility of requiring that a foreign investor from the United States has Canadian content, Canadian jobs, and Canadian production to have access to this market.

The maritime provinces, excluding Newfoundland, joined in Confederation, which was a sort of a free trade agreement, back in 1867. Ever since then, they have lost economic ground to the point where now, with the addition of Newfoundland, the four Atlantic provinces are the Cinderellas of Confederation. They have the lowest per capita earned incomes, the highest unemployment rates, and the greatest lack of opportunity in Canada to live, work, and raise a family in their own communities of all the Provinces and Territories of Canada.

A full 10 per cent of Canada's population suffers as the victim of market forces, government neglect, and a lack of government resolve, either Conservative or Liberal. That is the fate brought on by the free market forces that have existed in