

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-130, an Act to implement the free trade agreement between Canada and the United States of America, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee; and the amendments of Mr. Axworthy (p. 18476) and of Mr. Langdon (p. 18476).

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Resuming debate with the Hon. Member for Niagara Falls.

**Mr. Nicholson (Niagara Falls):** Mr. Speaker, I was saying how important it is that this agreement be passed for the benefit of the Niagara Peninsula. Many companies have indicated to me how important it is that I and other Members from the Niagara area, as well as members of the Government, get out to support the free trade agreement. Acres International, an employer of over 400 excellent jobs, recently contacted me to let me know that they are firmly behind it. I was at the Norton plant recently, and I got the same message from them. General Motors, B.F. Goodrich, C and C Yachts, T.R.W., Hayes-Dana, Muller's Meats, Brunner Manufacturing, almost all major employers in the City of Niagara Falls have contacted me to indicate their support for it.

I tell them I will do my best, despite the fact that there are so many so-called experts here on the economy of the Niagara Peninsula.

We were talking about the grape and wine industry. Something the critics of this agreement seem to forget, perhaps conveniently because they can sometimes get away with that without being called to task, is that we are also part of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. That is a group of all countries in the world trading together. It is sometimes forgotten that Canada has agreed to remove discriminatory provincial liquor pricing policy within GATT. We agreed to that over 10 years ago, but that is conveniently forgotten.

This free trade agreement is an agreement within GATT. It complies with GATT, so that the critics of this agreement do not realize, will not admit or will not be straightforward enough to admit that if the trade agreement disappeared it would not make one bit of difference to the problems we are having with the grape-wine industry. We have GATT to contend with, an agreement by which we agree to reduce and eliminate provincial liquor pricing policies. The attitude of the Province of Ontario on this matter is very interesting. It knows it has agreed to it. It has acknowledged that in the past. However, when asked about it, it says that any problems with provincial liquor pricing policies is not its concern and that the federal Government has to worry about that. Curiously

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enough, this is the provincial Government's complete attitude as it relates to this industry.

• (1550)

On the grape surplus program, each year the federal Government has indicated that it will do its share and put up 50 per cent to purchase every surplus crop, and the Province of Ontario is expected to meet the other 50 per cent. The Hon. Member for Lincoln (Mrs. Martin) can tell us that the provincial Government drags its heels every single year to the point where last year we had to give out the cheque. The federal Government gave its money and said that it did not know what was happening in Ontario. It did not know what the problem was with Queen's Park. That has been the rule of thumb with the Ontario Government. I hope some of my colleagues in the Opposition, the next time they talk to Premier Peterson and some of his friends in Queen's Park, will tell them to ante-up and start supporting this industry. This is not my only example.

We almost had a very terrible drought in the Niagara Peninsula. There was a drought in western Canada that caused great damage to agriculture, and we went for a long time without rain in the Niagara Peninsula. I was very concerned. I contacted the Department of Agriculture and asked to have the situation monitored, that we might have a problem, but as soon as it looked like there would be any problem with drought in the Niagara Peninsula, the word came from Queen's Park that it would have nothing to do with it. It said that if there was any problem we had better look to Ottawa, that the drought was Ottawa's problem. However, we were also told that the provincial Government was our best friend. The Ontario Minister of Agriculture came to my area and told us: "We are the best friends the farmers of this area ever had", but he did not bring his cheque-book. He said that if we were looking for any money we had better talk to the federal Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise), but that we should not forget the provincial Government was our best friend. That was the attitude of the provincial Government.

**Ms. Copps:** Bring on the trade agreement.

**Mr. Nicholson (Niagara Falls):** The Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) must still have a few friends down there at Queen's Park. She should tell them to bring their cheque-book the next time they visit the Niagara Peninsula and quit dragging their feet in supporting this industry.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** Right on, brother.

**Ms. Copps:** That isn't going to wash in the Niagara Peninsula.

**Mr. Nicholson (Niagara Falls):** The provincial Government changed the Wine Content Act. It said that we could not use labrusca grapes in certain types of wines, but when the vine removal program which is necessarily attendant upon that is presented to that Government, it says: "We may have helped