

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

that we will return to the bad old days of dog eat dog: If one happens to live in an area that is regionally disadvantaged, then tough, one can always move. People in the Atlantic provinces will again be forced to move to the United States to find employment, as they had to do at the turn of the century. This time, Canadians in other parts of the country will find themselves in the same predicament.

In conclusion, I believe that the Government has a responsibility to assure the people of Prince Edward Island, and indeed all the people of Atlantic Canada, that their interests, concerns, and way of life will not be dismissed in the cavalier manner that they were by former civil servant and now corporate executive, Mickey Cohen, when he stated: "Atlantic Canadians you are on your own".

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate the opportunity to speak here tonight. I want to state in this my first speech in this magnificent Chamber that I am proud to be a Canadian I am proud to be a New Democrat, but I am even prouder to be a representative of The Battlefords—Meadow Lake, a constituency in northwest Saskatchewan.

I am very happy, also, to be able to make a few remarks on what is probably the most important piece of legislation that has ever been talked about in this Chamber. It is described here on the Order Paper as: "Bill C-2, an Act to implement the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States of America". It is legislation of a considerable number of pages, legislation not unlike the agreement itself.

Before I talk about this legislation, I want to make a few remarks about The Battlefords—Meadow Lake constituency and to thank the voters who gave me the opportunity to be here, the voters who placed their trust and confidence in me to carry their message to this Chamber, and to the other Members of Parliament herein.

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The message I was sent here to discuss was one very much against this free trade legislation. In The Battlefords—Meadow Lake constituency the free trade legislation or the free trade deal was very much a single issue. I will speak tonight on behalf of the people who oppose this deal, and I will bring some of opposition to your attention, Madam Chairman, in a moment.

Throughout the riding and throughout the campaign I was told time and time again that the free trade deal

was bad for Saskatchewan and bad for the people of Canada. I was told too many times to count that this deal was being sold to an uninformed electorate by a Government without a single guarantee that what our grandparents and parents had worked for, in many cases fought for, would be protected for our future and for our children's future.

Here we go again with new legislation, not much different from that introduced prior to the election. Still, after all of that discussion, argument, and expressed concern, there is no protection or guarantees despite hundreds of words from a very concerned population. Has this Government not listened to anything? Has this Government not listened to the people it claims to represent? Seniors, farmers, wage earners, Indian people, pensioners, small business people, service club representatives, members of church groups, the handicapped, and students in my riding, all Canadians, all intelligent, all concerned that the Government has ignored their concerns about the future of this great country.

The Battlefords—Meadow Lake constituency is an area made up of farmers, city and native people. It is a diverse economy with agriculture being the predominant nature of that constituency. These are very down to earth people, very intelligent, very caring individuals, all of whom have a great deal of concern for their friends, their neighbours, their family, their province, and their country.

Earlier this day the Minister, the Hon. Member for Brampton, talked about what the Government had done for farmers in Canada. I want to mention a couple of things in that regard. First, I want to bring to the attention of the House a letter that I received today from one of my constituents, a fellow who lives in Borden, Saskatchewan, right near the very eastern edge of the constituency of The Battlefords—Meadow Lake. He writes:

Dear Mr. Taylor:

First I would like to congratulate you for winning your seat in Parliament. It is unfortunate in my opinion that the PCs won a majority because I feel that this so-called free trade deal is going to be detrimental to Canada.

This is an ordinary farm person speaking from his heart. I hope, Mr. Chairman, I do not have to listen to this noise. I did not go for supper tonight and get fed up like these people. I am getting fed up here in the House.

My constituent continues: