

Government Orders

After we learned from the thalidomide tragedy, that single woman doctor in the United States was given the highest civilian award possible in that country. What did Canada do then? It announced that we would have the same standards as the United States. That was a Liberal government. It was late and tragic. We still as taxpayers must share the burden, and rightly so, morally and ethically, to care for those victims of thalidomide in Canada. However, after that tragic incident we said: "Never again in Canada".

Let me warn all pregnant mothers. Let me warn all the elderly. Let me warn all children in this country and all parents who are concerned that the protection they thought would be there in perpetuity—never again the thalidomide scare—has all been signed away by that government over there.

I repeat. These are the words: "intellectual property rights, trade secrets generally, as well as protecting from disclosure by the government test data submitted by firms regarding the safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical and agricultural products".

Have we heard anyone on the government side, the health department, the justice department, any of the candidates for the leadership or even the chief spokesperson for the government give an explanation as to why it signed these sovereign rights away? Has it consulted the Canadian people? This is one specific example of literally dozens of examples throughout this whole massive documentation of the agreement this government has signed with Mexico and the United States.

There is no protection for the environment. There are no health and safety standards. For those unemployed Canadians who are being chastised for using unemployment insurance as a bridge before they go back to work, let me tell them that the kind of work they will face within 18 months after this agreement is implemented is competing against Mexicans who are paid 80 cents an hour on average for the same jobs that pay \$7 to \$12 here in Canada.

Has there been one populist voice from the business community against this kind of thing? Not in this country. The big-business community has totally capitulated to this agreement because it is hand in glove with this government. If anybody thinks that there is going to be relief through the Conservatives then they should forget it. Big business is going to put its money on the Tories. It is going to sell the brand new leader and unless

the Liberals have specific policies to announce they are going to be brushed aside in the debate.

That is the dilemma for the Official Opposition. The Liberals have not laid out exactly what it would change or do to protect Canadian workers or Canadian health. Since John Turner left the leadership of the Liberal Party it too has thrown in its hand with the same corporations that sponsor this government here.

Mr. Peterson: Balderdash.

Mr. Barrett: You can call it balderdash or any other uncomplimentary word you want. I have even better words for your position than balderdash. If you want to confess and repent your position on this, do it now. Do it quick because we do not have much time to debate this. The government is the one that is going to close this debate down.

• (1250)

In the United States there is a billionaire. In our culture it is important to define how much money you have got, not how much you have got up in your head or how much backbone you have got because we have abdicated defining human beings on those bases. Poets cannot make it in our society because they do not produce anything, just words.

Scientists are relegated to begging for research money because they are working out of an intellectual commitment.

But if you are greedy and you want to be measured in success, grab as much profit as you can under a wide open rapacious system that even the international Catholic church has now attacked as being the most serious evil facing mankind and that is rampant capitalism. Yes, it is the Catholic church that has defined the greatest sin now. They have even defined in the Catholic church that it is now a sin to exploit people by paying low wages. Under that definition every Catholic who is true to his or her faith who supports the free trade agreement is violating the tenets of the Catholic church and is being sinful.

I am not suggesting the church will excommunicate but I just want to warn Catholics as one who was educated in Catholic universities that they are open to sin if they support this agreement. The only organized group internationally that has defined what is a sin around this kind of agreement is the Catholic church and I applaud it with a great deal of enthusiasm.