

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

decided the deal was not good for Canada and not good for Nepean.

That was and is the position of the Liberal Party of Canada. However, Liberals oppose this proposed deal because we believe when you examine it and scrutinize it in detail, you come to the conclusion it is not good enough for Canada. We believed and still believe that the costs outweigh the benefits, as do the residents of my riding.

The majority of senior citizens in my riding oppose this deal. The majority of youth in my riding oppose this deal. The majority of public servants in my riding oppose this deal, as do the majority of small business people. The majority of women in Nepean oppose this deal.

The senior citizens of Nepean oppose it because as much as they like the United States of America, they do not want to become part of it. As much as many of them enjoy spending some of the cold winter months in Florida, they remain and want to remain Canadian, for our pension plans, our medicare, and for our more caring society. The youth of Nepean oppose this deal because they have pride in their country and enough confidence in themselves to decide their own destiny. What they want from the Government of Canada is increased funding for our educational institutions and new job training in skills development areas.

• (1630)

The Public Servants of Nepean oppose this deal because they know that their ability to formulate independent domestic policy is hindered by it. The small business people of Nepean oppose it because at best it detracts the Government from their concerns.

This leads me to the second major fact I wish to discuss—the clear misconception on the part of the Government that the free trade deal is a good deal for Canada's high-tech industry. I am correct in using the term "misconception" because Nepean, as most people know, is Canada's high-tech capital. And Nepean voted against this deal.

I ask for the attention of my colleagues opposite because I know Canadian companies are competitive in world markets. This deal will do more harm to our future international competitiveness than any other piece of government legislation in the history of our proud and growing nation. My hon. colleagues on the opposite side of this House must come to realize that Members on this side of the House oppose this deal

precisely because we have faith in Canada's ability to compete.

Canada's corporate success stories have become success stories partially because of government financial assistance, the type of assistance that is now precluded by this trade deal. Many Canadian companies have become successful because of heavy investments in R and D, excellent products, the foresight to take advantage of market opportunities when they arise and belief in Canadian companies by the Government of Canada.

Now that they have made it, these corporate people, it is all well and good for major corporations to be in favour of this trade deal because they have transcended national boundaries. These corporations are now multinationals. For them, anything that removes barriers to the free flow of capital components and workers, anything that gives more flexibility to respond to world markets, is a good thing.

Unfortunately, what this Government fails to recognize is that what is good for Canada's successful multinationals is not necessarily good for Canada or Canadians. What Canada needs is more corporate success stories. Sadly, this deal is going to make this much harder to achieve, not easier.

What I ask my fellow Hon. Members to ponder is how we are going to help to create the corporate successes that we had of yesterday and how we are going to create them tomorrow when we have willingly tied our hands behind our backs. How are we going to become world leaders in fields such as environmental technology when with the other hand we have slashed government R and D and corporate R and D tax incentives, and are then left helpless to designate a Canadian company as a preferred supplier, or give preferential treatment to companies in certain sectors or certain regions of the country? I do not know. What terrifies me is that I do not think that the Government knows either.

I for one am not of the opinion that either my constituency or my country are best served by reliving the election here. Neither am I one who subscribes to the view that this deal is an unmitigated disaster that will destroy Canada tomorrow. I am enough of an optimist to hope that the present Government may realize the folly of its ways and take the measures to correct them.

What I sincerely hope for is that in the second phase of trade negotiations which relate to the definition of subsidies the Government works harder to protect Canadian interests. I hope the Government of Canada realizes that Canada needs a true industrial strategy,