

Extension of Sittings

There is nothing in the Free Trade Agreement that will jeopardize the continued operation of Canada's agricultural marketing boards including those for dairy products, poultry and eggs. Other supply management programs can be added, if desired in the future, which is Canada's right under the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

• (2130)

Canada's highly efficient farmers, particularly those in the Holland Marsh, produce much more than we can consume. Agriculture commodity exports amount to \$4 billion a year.

The Auto Pact is improved. Not only are the already existing Auto Pact incentives and safeguards which guarantee Canada's share of production maintained, but a new North American content standard for foreign firms such as Honda and Hyundai, both new plants in my riding, will continue to fuel the growth of auto parts production in Canada. We can compete with the Americans. I really do not understand why we underestimate our ability to manufacture quality products.

Consumers are the main beneficiaries of the agreement. Tariffs on goods increase prices, limit competition, and decrease selection of consumer goods. For consumers, average savings from the elimination of tariffs on U.S. imports is estimated at \$1,800 for a family of four.

There is something in free trade for all consumers. It is not fair to say it will only benefit big business. Consumers will also benefit from more competition once barriers to the U.S. market are finally eliminated.

The Free Trade Agreement provides Canadian industry with effective protection against the unfair or incorrect application of U.S. trade remedy law. The binding trade dispute settlement mechanism provided for in Chapters Eighteen and Nineteen of the Free Trade Agreement will, for the first time, give Canadian industries an avenue of appeal to an impartial, neutral panel of Canadians and Americans.

The Free Trade Agreement's dispute settlement mechanism gives Canada an equal voice in resolving trade disputes and constrains the ability of the Americans to harm Canadian trading interests.

All Government-run social programs, including child care, health care, education, unemployment insurance

and welfare, are exempt from the agreement, despite what the Liberals and New Democrats told our seniors during the campaign. If they were at risk I, for one, could not have supported this agreement. However, I know perfectly well from reading the agreement that those things are not at risk.

After the Throne Speech on Monday it was obvious that the Government wished to open up the debate on the Free Trade Agreement and allow everyone, new and senior Members of the House, to speak to the Bill. Nothing else was involved in the Throne Speech, except for the Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

Despite their outcries, the Opposition has done everything in its power to avoid the debate on the Free Trade Agreement. As the Member for York—Simcoe I was hoping that we would have received the co-operation from the Opposition. How naive I am, being a new Member, in believing we could get the Free Trade Agreement discussed and debated.

I believe it is necessary to pass the Free Trade Agreement with the United States. It will be the first step in putting together future trade agreements with other countries. It will lead Canada through the 1980s, 1990s and into the next century not as a country that hides its head in the sand but as an aggressive country led by an aggressive government, sharing its confidence in its ability to compete with anyone, along with the confidence of the people of Canada who also want the opportunity to compete internationally.

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Madam Speaker, I too happen to be a new Member. As far as I am concerned, the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) can take all the time he needs to speak ahead of me.

I want to begin my maiden speech by stating for the record that when I walked into this wonderful, time-honoured Chamber I felt as though my family, friends, volunteers who were at my side during the election campaign and the residents of Hamilton West walked in with me.

Following the election night, people asked me how it would feel to be a Member of Parliament. To be honest, I did not know what to say. As the expression goes, it had not quite sunk in.