

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

doing that. It is the smaller Canadian-owned plants that will be hardest hit by this deal.

We have heard time and time again that the American plants can rationalize their production. It is the Canadian worker and his/her family who will face job dislocation. We have to deal with the inadequate employment programs put into place by this Government, or go through the Moncton experience.

Behind words like rationalize, relocate, employment dislocation, and government job retraining lies a harsh economic reality. These words and their effect on communities across Canada will appear more and more often in the economic dictionary of the new unwelcome environment that this deal will bring.

Canadians also do not want to see an entrepreneurial drain into American head office plants. If we are only to become a source of raw materials for the U.S., our young energetic entrepreneurs will move to where the action exits.

This could have very bad consequences when one looks at the long range effect. This is exactly what happens in Atlantic Canada with the brain drain to Upper Canada—although Upper Canada is fortunate that we are there to keep it going.

This Government must provide the producers and the consumers of Canada with specific guarantees that the adverse effects of this deal will be dealt with, and dealt with adequately and equitably for all Canadians.

By the time we are ready—and it may be already too late—we must have in place the transportation links and the other essential infrastructure. Otherwise, we will be going into this arrangement with one hand tied behind our back.

I have heard time and time again that the FTA opens up a market of 250 million consumers. But that does not deal with the reality that that market is already open to us, with 80 per cent of it being available tariff free. So, what did we give up to get tariff-free access to the remaining 20 per cent? I think we gave up a lot. I do not think we got what we bargained for. It is to be hoped that this Government will reconsider its decision.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Terry Clifford (London—Middlesex): Madam Speaker, I am very honoured to be here this evening and to be making my first speech in this the Thirty-fourth Parliament.

I should like to begin my remarks by expressing my gratitude to the voters of London—Middlesex for re-electing me to the Parliament of Canada. I might say, it is the first time London—Middlesex has returned the incumbent to Parliament. Having been re-elected by my constituents, I now have a responsibility to stand in this place and speak out on their behalf.

The November 21 election was an historic one inasmuch as it provided Canadians with the opportunity to express their feelings on the vision that they see for Canada. I think it was worth the fight—and indeed it was a fight. Up and down every street in the riding and out on the concession roads, there was a battle for votes. Clearly, it was an election in which Canadians had to make a decision about this country's future. The question was whether they would reflect upon the economic record of this Government and choose its vision for the future of this country. Clearly, the voters of London—Middlesex made their choice, and I stand in this place today to represent them.

I think it important to reflect upon why the voters chose the Progressive Conservative Party as their Government.

In the election of 1984, the concern of Canadians had to do with the lack of jobs and the lack of opportunity for our youth. Those were the important issues. When Canadians reflected upon the record of the first four years of Progressive Conservative Government, they could see that this Government clearly delivered on its promises to do something about those two main concerns, and it did so through the very innovative Canadian Jobs Strategy Program and by bringing about decreased inflation and lower interest rates.

As a consequence of this Government's management of the economy, investment was fueled and jobs created for our youth. In fact, over the course of its first mandate, this Government created 1.3 million jobs in Canada. Clearly, that provided new hope for Canada's youth, and when it came time to vote in the 1988 election, Canada's youth did not forget what this Government had done for it.

When one reflects upon why Canadians made the decision that they did, one should look at the riding of London—Middlesex, because it is a microcosm of Canada. London—Middlesex represents all that we can find in this great nation of ours. When the people of London—Middlesex considered what the Free Trade Agreement was going to do for them in terms of the workplace and their place in Canada, they responded in