

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

development if it is not sabotaged by the Opposition Parties and by the Canadian labour movement, that mindless organization that seems to be opposed to every change that anyone proposes in Canadian society today.

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History and statistics, the plain facts, are not of much interest to the Opposition. We know its technique; level a charge, sometimes directly, sometimes by innuendo, that if one is for free trade, one is selling out Canada's sovereignty. The sale of Canada Act, as the Right Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition calls it, is really for a brighter tomorrow Act. It is for our future, for our brighter tomorrow.

Is the Opposition suggesting for example, that Brian Peckford or John Buchanan would sacrifice their people's future or sell out their province or their country? How about Frank McKenna? We cannot mention a NDP Premier because there is not one. We cannot even mention them anymore because they are a vanishing breed. What happened to Pawley? Or I should I call him A-Pawley?

Is Robert Bourassa a man who is willing to deliver the future of Quebec into the hands of a foreign country? What an insidious and insulting suggestion made by the Leader of the National Party about the Premier of Quebec. He is saying in effect that Premier Bourassa is willing to deliver Quebec to a foreign country. Are the four western Premiers men who would falter when the good of their province and country hangs in the balance, Frank Devine or Don Getty and the others? Are these eight Premiers not sincerely seeking the good of their country by choosing to support the free trade agreement?

Is the suggestion that eight out of the ten Premiers of Canada are insincere traitors to their country? Is that the suggestion? That is the innuendo. That is what the Right Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition and the Leader of the New Democratic Party go about this country suggesting. They are saying that not only this whole Party here but every Premier of Canada, except two, Prince Edward Island and Ontario, are traitors to their country. What a scurvy, scurrilous kind of campaign is being waged against this commercial arrangement.

The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition goes from one end of the country to the other saying it is the sale of Canada Act, and the Leader of the New Democratic Party repeats the charge that the very idea of Canada is imperilled.

The issue of free trade with the United States is not about who is or who is not a good Canadian. It is not about whether or not you sell out your country. It is not about imperilling the very idea of Canada. It is about the rules of commercial trade. This is what it is all about. What are rules of commercial trade between Canada and the United States going to be? How can we change them to our advantage? That is what it is about. But the opposition Parties do not want to debate or discuss it on that level. They want to discuss it in a cloud of insinuations

and innuendoes to arouse the fears of people, for instance, that the social security system is going to fail. Imagine, Madam Speaker, going around trying to disturb senior citizens in Canada by feeding them those malicious lies? Mr. Bourassa said with respect to that charge:

Mr. Broadbent should know we're not talking about the sovereignty of Canada... How could you seriously say that Canadian sovereignty is at stake when we want to protect Canadian markets in the U.S.?

That is Premier Bourassa's answer. I would like to see the Leader of the New Democratic Party go to Quebec and debate face to face with Mr. Bourassa. Is Mr. Bourassa a traitor or not? Is he giving up Canadian sovereignty or not? The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition should have some backbone and meet Premier Bourassa face to face to make these charges and debate them with him. Gerald Regan said:

I believe the greatest assurance of protection of our sovereignty, of our culture, is the maintenance of a strong economy, and free trade with the greatest market on earth gives an opportunity to strengthen our economy that any other country on earth would give their eye teeth to have.

That was said by Gerry Regan who for two years under former Prime Minister Trudeau tried to negotiate sectoral free trade with the United States and got nowhere. He is honest enough and patriotic enough to give his views now, as he is doing. He is still a Liberal but no longer in active politics. That is his answer to those statements.

What about business, the exporter, the resource and manufacturing and service industries, which are the creators of wealth and employment in Canada? Where do they stand? They stand almost unanimously on the side of the free trade agreement. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business supports free trade. The Québec Conseil du Patronat supports free trade. The Consumer's Association of Canada supports free trade. The Canadian Council for International Trade supports free trade. The Canadian Export Association, does it know something about exports the Opposition does not? Yes, it does, and the answer is, of course, that it does support free trade.

Mining associations, forestry associations, fisheries associations, agricultural associations, energy associations, service industry associations, and manufacturers associations, scores of them from coast to coast, support free trade. The Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board, the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, the Canadian Meat Council, the Manitoba Farm Business Association—Manitoba—the Manitoba Hog Producers Marketing Board, the Ontario Pork Producers Marketing Board, the Saskatchewan Pork Producers Marketing Board, the United Grain Growers, the Western Barley Growers Association, the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, and so it goes, the people in the market-place competing every day, seeking new opportunities, those who understand the realities of international trade, those with the practical experience, all support free trade. Do they want to sell out Canada?