

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

States industries initiate countervail actions? More than 50 federal and provincial programs presently provide subsidies which under American trade law could be penalized. For Prince Edward Islanders their potatoes, fish, hogs, and manufactured goods are still subject to U.S. trade remedy laws. What assurances do Canadians have that every time federal assistance is allocated to a region the United States will not claim foul under its trade remedy laws?

• (2300)

I have presented the concerns of my constituents, Canadians who take great pride in our Canadian way of life. We are not against freer trade, just this trade agreement. We do not have secure access and our subsidies will be continually harassed by the United States until we have harmonized with the American way of life.

I was elected to represent the concerns of my constituents. I will fight to ensure that their voices are heard. Canadians need responsible representation in Parliament. I pledge to uphold that right.

Prince Edward Islanders know that 43 per cent of the over-all popular vote does not constitute agreeing to this agreement.

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, we are sitting here once more long into the night in the name of partisan politics. The debate we are involved in now, one which we have been involved in for some period of time, is really going to contribute nothing to understanding free trade, really knowing what it is or what it will accomplish. The debate has been extremely exhaustive thus far.

The House has talked about it for 15 months. We have been through a seven-week election campaign. Frankly, I think Canadians are more or less fed up with the free trade debate and would like us to move on. The whole point of why we are here and engaging in the partisan politics of the moment is so some opposition Members can get on record. I think it amounts to little more than that.

The Liberals are free traders. The Liberals have always been free traders. They have had a history of trade liberalization with the United States for decades.

The Liberals can take a great deal of the credit for having brought us to the point where 80 per cent of our trade with the Americans is free of tariffs, something for

which the Liberals can be proud. However, it is astonishing to me now that they are going against the record of trade liberalization which they have accomplished in the past. I think that the Liberals should embrace free trade. I think there is no question about it. If they do not embrace free trade, I think that the Liberal Party is being extremely hypocritical.

After all, there are many prominent Liberals who are solidly behind the free trade deal. For example, there is Premier Frank McKenna, Lawrence Decore, and a lot of the business community behind free trade, which is evident in the financial situation of the Liberal Party.

I think all the Opposition Leader does not really like about the Free Trade Agreement is that his name is not on it—and it will not be on it, either. We have the obligation to ask the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) some questions. We have gone through an election campaign in which the Opposition Leader is saying that this was the cause of his life, that he had to crusade for Canada against free trade. In the last Parliament I believe that the Opposition Leader missed two of three votes that were held on free trade. Where was John? Last Saturday at 1 a.m. we sat here in this Chamber after debating a motion on free trade all day. There was a vote. I believe the results were 144 to 36. Where was John?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member is a new Member. I must advise him that we do not use the first name or the second name of an individual but his title, such as the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Arseneault: Mr. Speaker, I believe we do not comment on the presence or absence of Members in the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): That is right.

Mr. Turner (Halton—Peel): There have been accusations with respect to Conservatives ramming through the legislation for free trade now that the election is over and the House has resumed sitting. I feel that there is a strong suspicion of hypocrisy here. We should look back to the Auto Pact to see how the Liberals dealt with the last major free trade initiative which was brought into the House.

It is beneficial to us to remember that in May, 1966 the legislation for the Auto Pact was introduced into the House. There were no public hearings when that legislation was brought into the House by the Liberal Government. Some 15 months after the legislation had