

**Mr. Axworthy:** What agreement?

**Mr. McDermid:** Speak to your House Leader.

**Mr. Allmand:** I know that there is no such agreement. I have been sitting here all day.

**Mr. McDermid:** Too bad he does not talk to you.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The Hon. Member for Skeena has the floor.

**Mr. Fulton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, the FTA provides a complete arsenal of armaments for large multinationals and right-wing Governments on both sides of the border to bust unions, lower wages, cut social programs, lower environmental standards, cut regional development funding, while simultaneously giving what is know in the agreement as national treatment, or pipeline of resources to the same multinationals for wood, water, minerals, fish and many other things.

I am going to direct my remarks this evening to two key areas covered by the motions before us, one on Motion No. 9, in relation to aboriginal title and rights. I must say that I find it unusual that the one Minister of the Crown, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. McKnight), who clearly under Canada's Constitution and under rulings by the highest courts in Canada, has a fiduciary responsibility to the first citizens and First Nations of Canada, has not participated in the debate and has not produced for the First Nations a report on the impact of the FTA upon those to whom he has a direct constitutional responsibility.

● (2050)

The movement on aboriginal title and rights in Canada since Confederation has been a sorry and sad tale. Perhaps it has been the most sad and sorry in recent decades, going back to 1971-72 with the notorious White Paper which was reversed by the Calder decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, a decision that was tied three-three. That created some movement in the settlement of comprehensive claims but that movement was turned back in 1981-82 when the Government removed aboriginal rights from Canada's Constitution. Of course, we have seen that followed by the now famed Erik Nielsen report known as the Buffalo Jump of the 1980s, a report which would bring about the total assimilation and annihilation of the first citizens of Canada. That, of course, will be followed by the 1988 FTA should it in fact be passed and implemented.

One has to have some understanding of the gravity of the situation affecting first citizens and First Nations to know why the Assembly of First Nations opposed this Bill so strongly before committee and are opposing it so strongly across Canada. This Government has not moved since it came to office on Section 35 of the Constitution, recognizing aboriginal title and rights.

In my view, there is no fair-minded Canadian who is not appalled at the neglect by governments one after another

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which has brought the First Nations to such a state that any negative social indicator one can imagine can apply including the highest rates of suicide, the lowest rates of employment and the highest rates of incarceration. All the negative social indicators that can be found to measure the situation of the First Nations is there for all to see. The governments have a responsibility to settle comprehensive claims in British Columbia and North of 60 and to live up to the treaties in the rest of Canada. The governments have a responsibility to settle the specific claims which now number over 500.

Those first citizens who are listening this evening have to understand that a premonition of what will come under the FTA was what has gone on in Alberta with the Lubicon people. Just when the federal and provincial Governments could have moved to settle outstanding claims of the Lubicon people, the governments turned over a vast tract of land covering all of the Lubicon claim in northern Alberta to Daishowa Pulp Company, a pulp company wholly owned by Japanese. That process will accelerate, not just in Alberta but in every province and North of 60 should the FTA be implemented.

We must understand what national treatment means. The steeplechases that will have to be jumped by First Nations in order to settle comprehensive claims will be so much higher. One need simply read the FTA to see that local governments would have to follow rules against local preferences.

The First Nations have a true understanding of sustainable development. They understand the Brundtland report, the World Commission on the Environment. They understand how to properly harvest plants, animals and fish. They have a love for the land. One need only read the FTA to see how difficult it will be to maintain that traditional lifestyle.

For example, if an American corporation were to set up a large guiding and outfitting operation next to an Indian band which had a similar operation set up, it would be only a matter of a moment before the parent corporation would take some kind of countervailing action for unfair subsidies against the Indian band. I have here an excellent article entitled "The Binding Dispute Settlement Mechanism". It says:

"And since all Canadian producers are to some extent subsidized by government-run hydro, telephones, postal services, health care systems, etc., etc.—failing US firms will never run out of grounds for filing unfair trade practices suits.

Following a suit brought by the New England fishing industry, for example, the US International Trade Commission identified 58 Canadian government programs it labelled "unfair subsidies" to the Canadian fishing industry."

Let us think for just a moment about long-standing treaty entitlements and the specific entitlements of the first citizens of Canada. How long would it be before they would be challenged before the U.S. International Trade Commission? Even if they were taken before the so-called binding dispute settlement mechanism, we do know this, as stated in the article to which I just referred: