

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

There is not in fact a written rule forbidding Hon. Members from using their desk tops in that manner for the purpose of showing approval or disapproval in respect of what is being said. However, because it causes sound problems for the television technicians, it is a practice that has fallen into disuse.

I see no difficulty in new Members being made aware of the problems that it causes, and it is my hope that it is not something that would again become a practice in this Parliament.

**Mr. Boudria:** Madam Chairman, if I may, I should like to express my appreciation to the Chair for its clarification of that previous ruling.

**Mr. Attewell:** Madam Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** The Hon. Member for Markham, on a point of order.

**Mr. Attewell:** Madam Chairman, having been born in the Parkdale—High Park area of Toronto, and having spent my first 20 years in that area, I am embarrassed by the lack of substance in the remarks of the Hon. Member for Parkdale—High Park.

I wonder if we might be able to get all-party agreement to give him another 20 minutes, in the hope that he can come up with something of some substance and content.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear! It is unanimous.

**Some Hon. Members:** No, no!

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** Is there unanimous consent?

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Flis:** On a point of order, Madam Chairman—

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** The Hon. Member for Parkdale—High Park on a point of order.

**Mr. Flis:** Madam Chairman, because of all the heckling, I was only able to get half way through my remarks, and certainly I could use another 20 minutes in order to finish them. I am willing to accede to the request of the Hon. Member for Markham, and in fact I now seek unanimous consent of the Committee of the Whole to continue for another 20 minutes.

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** I have asked whether there is unanimous consent that the Hon. Member for Parkdale—High Park be permitted to continue for another 20 minutes, and that unanimous consent is not forthcoming.

• (2150)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Côté:** Madam Chairman, before I start, I would like to thank the people of the magnificent riding of Richmond—Wolfe for turning the riding around and helping to bring this Government back to power.

Here are a few facts about my riding. Richmond—Wolfe boasts 52 municipalities and towns and 53,000 voters, 11 per cent of whom are Anglophone. Its main industries are in the manufacturing and mining sector. The city of Asbestos exports asbestos; Disraeli exports Shermag furniture; Bromptonville and Windsor export pulp and paper; Valcourt, in my riding, is home to Bombardier, a large, well-known firm. The people of Richmond—Wolfe voted for Yvon Côté and the Government because they are convinced of the positive impact and economic benefits of free trade. I share their conviction and take this opportunity to thank them for their support.

It is with great pride, Mr. Chairman, that I take part today in the debate on the Free Trade Agreement. On November 21, the people of my riding, and millions of other Canadians like them, showed the rest of the world—yes, the rest of the world—that Canada wants to open itself to the world. They are the people, Mr. Chairman, that I have the honour and privilege to represent in this Chamber.

Barely a few years ago, China, Iran and even some European countries seemed to us to be somewhat distant and inaccessible and we even had difficulty imagining that other economic systems could exist. All that really mattered for us was our own country, I might even say our own town or village. Well, we realize now that there is in this world, in addition to Canada, a great many other countries and thousands of towns and villages, and that it extends beyond the oceans, as we know now through the printed media and other forms, as well as through our travelling and business acquaintances.

Today, whenever we switch on our television sets, we can visit this planet which includes more than our parish, our town and even our country, and we can even reach out to other planets.