

NDP knows it is bad to be a member of the EEC. That is absurd, to put it mildly. That is one of the reasons they are getting so desperate. None of the five elections in which I have run have been single-issue elections. Nevertheless, the NDP want an election on this issue—

Mr. Manly: To throw you bums out.

Mr. Andre: —because they know that there is no basis for the arguments they are making. They know that in the end the truth will out. They know that in truth this is a great deal for Canada and they want an election before the bulk of Canadians find that out.

Mr. Manly: You're signing it before the bulk of Canadians find out the truth. Why are you rushing to sign it if you say the truth isn't out yet?

Mr. Gauthier: That's not very strong, Harvie.

Mr. Foster: That's your convoluted logic, Harvie.

Mr. Andre: I look forward to an election on this issue, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to an election comparing our record with NDP predictions. I look forward to having the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) coming to Calgary from Oshawa where there is zero unemployment. They have all that foreign investment. They have a free trade agreement. I look forward to him coming to speak on behalf of the New Democratic Party candidate in Calgary Centre to explain what a terrible thing we are doing. I want to hear him telling Calgarians that they are going to disappear and all become Americans, that the Stars and Stripes will be flying from the top of the Petro-Canada tower, and that they will stop being Canadians if they go along with this deal.

● (1210)

I was in Oshawa a couple of weeks ago and I was shocked, as I looked around, not to see any Stars and Stripes on any buildings. It looked like a Canadian city to me and the people to whom I talked were certainly proud Canadians. Many of them work for General Motors and have good paying jobs. They are proud of the fact that in Oshawa they can produce a car \$1,200 cheaper than the Americans in Detroit. They have a right to be proud of that. It made them stronger Canadians.

The NDP argue that the way to become stronger Canadians is to put up the barriers and have no truck or trade with the Yankees. If that is how free trade will work, I would like to travel to Europe to see what is happening there. I have not had the opportunity to travel like the back-benchers because I have been too busy. I would like to go to Europe to see all those people in Frankfurt speaking French, people in Paris speaking German, or people in Rome speaking English. I imagine that the Union Jack must be flying from the Vatican since one's identity disappears with a free trade agreement.

Apparently, all the social programs in those countries will have to be identical as a result of that trading arrangement. I

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will have to travel to Europe to see how the unemployment insurance schemes in Italy, Denmark and Luxembourg are identical. The old age pensions must be identical in all of those countries, if the pensions exist at all since trade apparently makes such things difficult. According to the NDP, such programs must be identical and pretty miniscule. The NDP are suggesting that our social programs will disappear and we will disappear as a country. What absurdity!

This agreement will generate hundreds of thousands of new jobs, according to all the experts. Those who say that this will not happen are the same experts whose predictions in the last three years have turned out to be totally wrong.

I could go on for hours ridiculing the NDP, considering the ammunition they provide. However, I want to spend a few minutes talking about one group for whom even some New Democrats admit the free trade agreement is nothing but a benefit. That group is the consumers. Howard Pawley acknowledged that the consumers will benefit. Indeed, they will benefit very substantially.

Mr. Frith: Prove it.

Mr. Andre: The Hon. Member says prove it.

Mr. Gauthier: Do not be as bad as the NDP. Give us some facts.

Mr. Andre: We have some facts.

Mr. Frith: Bill C-22 will save consumers money.

Mr. Andre: I am glad he mentioned Bill C-22. Let me quote what the Hon. Member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith) said. He is muttering about Bill C-22, but he remembers what he said in the *Canadian Pharmaceutical Review* about Bill C-22. He said it was a good Bill.

Mr. McDermid: That is why he is heckling. He is embarrassed.

Mr. Andre: If he keeps this up, I will tell Malépart.

There is no question that the consumer is a clear winner. First, there is the dropping of tariffs on imports from the United States. In 1986, the total tariffs paid on goods imported from the United States amounted to \$2.1 billion. The removal of that by itself automatically means at least that benefit.

But there are more benefits. If U.S. goods come in to Canada tariff-free, they are therefore cheaper for Canadian consumers. Similar goods coming in from Japan, Germany and other countries will have to be cheaper in order to compete. While they will not have the tariff reduction, they will have to drop their prices or lose their market share. In either case, the consumer will get the benefit.

Third, Canadian consumers will have to compete and therefore the prices of those goods will drop. Therefore, a drop in tariffs on goods coming from the United States will cause a