

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

stumpage fees and therefore the incentive, the motivation to contribute to Canada's economy is not as ardent. They question their future and, by extension, the workers do as well.

Since the Memorandum of Understanding was signed on December 30, 1986, four sawmills have closed in my riding.

What is the Government prepared to do to compensate for these losses? Is it prepared at least to screen American investment in Canada? Has it set up a mechanism where undue, unwanted and unwarranted competition would be controlled? Has the Government thought of negotiating with the Americans a system whereby the latter would have to re-invest some of their profits in Canada?

To summarize, we should not let the Americans muscle their way into Canada and do as they please. They should respect the fact that Canada is huge geographically, and since jobs are concentrated in the larger urban centres, rural areas do indeed depend on regional development incentives in order to remain competitive, and in the end, to survive. Survival can be achieved in other ways than open frontier economic policies with the United States, therefore limiting our exporting capacity to one country only. One should learn from one's past. The Government should expand its exporting markets to the European Economic Community, to China, to Hong Kong, to the Middle East and to the Soviet Union.

• (2150)

Let us not permit history to repeat itself negatively. Canadians know better. I hope the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) will at least consider selling Canadian products elsewhere than the United States.

Hon. Members opposite say that it would be advantageous to limit exports to the American market only. We are already doing 80 per cent of our trade with the United States. Is it worth unleashing American corporations, allowing them to take over our industries, for the remaining 20 per cent?

Out of respect for ourselves, let us keep Canada Canadian. Let us be the masters of our own destiny. Let us diversify our trading partners in order to ensure that American countervailing action not be undertaken. Let us not give them the opportunity to do so. Let us not adhere so blindly to the North American economic constitution.

[*Translation*]

I could not conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker, without referring to the omnibus bill regarding the entry of foreign products in the United States and to the fact that Canada is not exempt from it. How can we consider free trade with the Americans when this protectionist bill aims at controlling foreign competition with American industries and small businesses! The Secretary of State, Mr. Schultz, admitted, during his visit to Canada last spring, that it would be ridiculous to talk about free trade if Canada is not exempt from it. And what are we to think of the record speed with which the American Congress passed its bill on free trade with Canada. We must infer that the Americans firmly believe that the agreement is largely favourable to their interests. Americans never lose out when they do business with a foreign country.

All in all, conscious as I am of the impact this agreement will have on our society and bearing in mind the uncertainties which Canadians will be facing, it is my duty and my moral responsibility to vote against this bill in accordance with the mandate given to me by the people of Cochrane—Superior on November 21 last.

[*English*]

To my constituents, and to the staff and Members of the House of Commons, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, the hour is late, the Chamber is understandably sparse, it is nearing Christmas Eve, and Mr. Speaker is beginning his traditional *réception de Noël*. I am honoured to draw a speaking slot of 9.55 p.m. Eastern Time, 11.25 p.m. in Newfoundland, to address the subject we have been debating for weeks, indeed for many months, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

My position reminds me of a story that the great former Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker used to tell as only the Chief could tell it. Long ago, there was a similar marathon debate. Practically everybody in the House had spoken on the same subject and it fell to one rookie MP to bring up the rear. Well, this Hon. Member had made the mistake of giving the text of his remarks to the press in advance, so he had to forge ahead.

I will let the former Right Hon. Member for Prince Albert tell about this MP's maiden address. He went into the history of his riding dating back to biblical times. He even referred to the paternity of the dogs of his constituents. By now the sounds of tinkling glasses and the singing of carols were heard coming from the