

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

is removed, either the farmer will have to take a reduction in his price of the product, or the worker will have to take less money for his labour, or the social plans will have to be cut so they can survive.

Negotiations in these situations will go very quickly in trying to deal with the farmers, suggesting that they receive much less per tonne for tomatoes. The workers will be caught in a bind with negotiations as well suggesting that their wages should be held or lowered. The company may well leave the country. That is a possibility as well. If the difference is too great for the producer, he will leave Canada. I feel because of the trade deal agriculture will be the big loser.

Why agriculture was ever considered in this agreement is beyond me. Since it has been, the agreement has the potential to devastate the industry. Without question I feel that the agricultural industry has been sold out. If you look at southwestern Ontario you will find not one person on the Government side from that area.

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (International Trade) and Minister of State (Housing)): Mr. Speaker, may I begin tonight by congratulating you and your colleagues in the chair on your re-election—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, no.

Mr. McDermid: I welcome your support. It is wonderful. I also want to thank the electors of Brampton for returning me for the fourth time to the House of Commons. It is a real pleasure to represent such a great community.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): As I said previously, this is not a Minister's maiden speech but I would like to have a little civility. We are getting very close to putting the question. The Hon. Minister has the floor.

Mr. McDermid: I can understand the Opposition's concern when I get up to speak because I tell the truth about the Free Trade Agreement.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McDermid: The Opposition Members can natter and heckle all they want for the next 15 minutes, but I am going to speak on free trade and tell the truth about it. Before I get into it, I want to thank the electors in Brampton. My good friend the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) kept yelling across the

House at me to get back to Brampton and work on the campaign because I was in deep trouble. I want him to know, just for his own edification because I know he has not yet had time to check the figures, that I did win by over 52 per cent of the vote.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McDermid: I understand his reaction for those people who could not see it on television, Mr. Speaker. He is not easily impressed and I understand why. I will get to him a little later in my remarks.

I am sharing the great City of Brampton with my colleague from Brampton—Malton. Because our community is growing at such a rapid rate, it has been divided into two ridings. I share the responsibility with the Hon. Member for Brampton—Malton (Mr. Chadwick). He is a very old friend of mine and I am very honoured to be here in the House of Commons with him to represent our great city.

The last two years have probably been the most interesting, rewarding and exciting two years in my life because the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) appointed me Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie). In that period of time I followed the negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement very carefully. I have seen an agreement come to fruition. I have followed the debates and participated in them over that period of time. I have seen the legislation develop and come before this House twice now, and we are debating it for the second time here.

I listened with great interest over the last couple of days to the new Members of Parliament speaking freely and saying that they were not given an opportunity to speak. I do not know how you can have it both ways—standing up in the House of Commons and complaining you cannot speak. What are they doing? They are here speaking and they are speaking on the Free Trade Agreement. They have the freedom to speak. As a matter of fact, the Government has given them an extra 24 hours of debate to speak on this agreement. The Government offered them last weekend to speak on the debate. Not only did they not take up the opportunity to speak on the Free Trade Agreement, but only 36 Members showed up to vote on Friday.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. McDermid: I want the House to look. The Leader of the Liberal Party is left alone. The Members have abandoned him again.