Government Orders

We have yet to see one new program put in place after promise, after promise, after promise made by the right hon. Prime Minister in a nationalized television debate of the three leaders that they would be come a reality if the free trade agreement was consummated.

What has happened? The trade deal, notwithstanding the combined opposition of the opposition parties, led by the right hon. member for Vancouver Quadra who was the leader of our party at the time and the fact that over 60 per cent of Canadians opposed the free trade deal, the government pushed it through with its parliamentary majority—

Mrs. Sparrow: Oh, please, you are stretching it here.

Mr. Dingwall: —parliamentary majority, Madam Speaker, and we have yet to see a realization of the promise. That is utterly shameful or as some would say in Calgary—

Mr. Nunziata: Sneaky.

Mr. Dingwall: As some would say in Atlantic Canada.

An hon. member: Sneaky.

Mr. Dingwall: As some would say in Quebec.

Mrs. Maheu: Sneaky.

Mr. Dingwall: As some would say in Ontario.

Some hon. members: Sneaky.

Mr. Dingwall: You see, Madam Speaker, that is what we have got here, a little: "Let's put it in Bill C-35. Let's hide it", just like a sneak attack the kids talk about when they are playing their Nintendo games.

Mr. Nunziata: That's a big Mac attack.

Mrs. Sparrow: It's a Mac attack.

Mr. Dingwall: She wants to talk about the Mac attack. We will get to that in a minute because there is another section of the bill.

Madam Speaker, we as Canadians have been given a bill of goods by the party opposite. Ontario has suffered substantially as a result of no labour adjustment policies.

Mrs. Sparrow: That's Peterson.

Mr. Dingwall: Time after time after time people in Ontario have suffered. The hon. member opposite says: "What about the former premier of Ontario, Mr. David Peterson. What did he do?"

I will tell you what he did, Madam Speaker. The federal government did not provide leadership in providing adjustment programs for Canadians that have been displaced. Mr. Peterson and the government of the day did not provide leadership for that province and the people decided. They said: "Good-bye, Mr. Peterson". That is what they said and they are going to say the same thing to the right hon. Prime Minister and the hon. member opposite. They have provided no leadership, no programs with regard to adjustment policies and the same thing will happen to the hon. member. Canadians will give them the boot as well. That is what will happen.

Madam Speaker, if I may go on, there are other little sneaky things that one might refer to in Bill C-35. I have just pointed out one. On an earlier occasion, Madam Speaker, I brought to the attention of those in this House the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Ah, the hon. member is interested, as I am sure the hon. Minister for Veterans Affairs is interested. It will now provide every five years a comprehensive report on the activities of ACOA.

The hon. members opposite have made my case. They have made my case, Madam Speaker. The hon. members know that any Crown agency must file an annual report with the Government of Canada. But if it were so wonderful an agency, and if it was such a panacea of economic development that they wished to refer to, why would they wait for the fifth year to give a comprehensive report on the activities of ACOA? I ask you: is it? Aha, that is exactly what it is, sneaky in its worst form. Why doesn't the hon. minister join in the debate instead of sitting in his place and chirping from the government benches. Why does he not enter the debate?

I know why he does not want to enter the debate. He is utterly ashamed of his own performance and the performance of his government with regard to the economic activities in Atlantic Canada. He and his government have been dismal failures in Atlantic Canada and I would hope the hon. minister would afford himself the opportunity to stand in his place and defend some of the