

look for inadequacies in those programs and in the application of those programs. I am sure that the programs are not perfect. I think the committee should invite workers, business people and communities that are availing themselves of these programs to share with the committee their experience in living with these programs.

The committee also seeks, and will receive with the adoption of the report, a role in monitoring the negotiations on counter-vail and antidumping. Here again, as I indicated at second reading, the government will cooperate with the committee in this matter. However, as I have also said, we draw the line, as governments always have and always will, at divulging the details of negotiations which could damage our position in those negotiations. On those matters we have to be the judge as to when and how much we can reveal consistent with the public interest.

In conclusion, I simply want to pay tribute to ministers, present and previous, who have been involved in the free trade negotiations and in the government's free trade initiative. I think of the past ministers for International Trade, the Honourable James Kelleher and the Honourable Pat Carney, as well as the present, the Honourable John Crosbie. On behalf of the government, certainly on behalf of my colleagues in the government party, I also want to express our warm appreciation to Ambassador Reisman and to the many public servants—

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh!

**Senator Stollery:** You have already expressed your appreciation to him with a million bucks!

**Senator Doody:** Order!

**Senator Murray:** I am terribly sorry that honourable senators cannot find it in their hearts, at this season of the year in particular, to at least praise the ambassador—

**An Hon. Senator:** Is this an electoral campaign?

**Senator Murray:** —for his exceptional dedication to Canada, for his exceptional dedication to duty, and for the tremendous energy, enthusiasm and skill he brought to his task. I express that appreciation not only to Ambassador Reisman but to the many public servants in the Department of External Affairs and the Trade Negotiations Office who have taken part in this initiative over these many months.

Last, but not least of course, a word for the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, whose vision, skill, determination and political leadership have seen this initiative through to a successful conclusion.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Senator Murray:** Previous generations of political leaders, going back before Confederation, have grappled with the problems and opportunities of our economic and our trading relationship with the United States. As honourable senators know, elections were fought on this issue in the early days of Confederation and, indeed, in this century in the election of 1911, when the Laurier government was defeated on a free trade initiative that it had taken with the United States. We

have been told that Prime Ministers King and St. Laurent had come close to concluding free trade agreements with the United States, but drew back. My own party, as honourable senators know, through much of its early history, opposed free trade with the United States. We opposed it because in our judgment Canada was not ready, was not ready politically, economically or culturally, for free trade with the United States.

Honourable senators, Canada is ready today. This government has negotiated a Free Trade Agreement with the United States, and the policy of the government in this matter has widespread support among the provinces, in the business community, and I think it is clear outside of Parliament that it has widespread support among members of various political parties. That the agreement has this support in the country speaks, I believe, of a new confidence among Canadians, a new confidence in our own political independence, in our cultural identity and in our economic potential. All that we cherish about Canada, and all that makes us unique as a country, will be enhanced as Canadians excel and prosper under the Free Trade Agreement with the United States. Once again, I commend the agreement and this bill to the support of the Senate at third reading.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I am not sure that I can begin or end my comments with the elevated prose used by the Leader of the Government as he attempted, once more, to pump some substance into the Free Trade Agreement debate, substance which the government has been unable to explain and which is not discerned by the Canadian people at large. Despite what the Leader of the Government has said, and despite the outcome of the election, the fact still remains that there is deep anxiety and deep uncertainty in the country about the effect of the Free Trade Agreement upon the Canadian economy, upon Canadian society and, in particular, upon our political sovereignty. It would be nice if able craftsmanship of parliamentary speeches could settle these matters, but it cannot. We heard plenty about it in the committee.

• (1500)

We welcomed Senator Murray's presence in the committee during the testimony of Mr. de Grandpré on the question of adjustment. He was not there, however, when we heard from the representatives of the Canadian Labour Congress. I do not complain about that, but about the fact that the representative of the Canadian Labour Congress—having been a determined opponent of the Free Trade Agreement, having joined with the Pro-Canada Network to oppose the agreement, having now accepted the results of the election—came to the committee to describe to us his apprehensions about the impact of the Free Trade Agreement. He talked about the dire consequences accruing to Canadian industry and jobs as a result of the low-wage competition from the southern United States. I asked him about northern workers in the United States, and he cited the instance of what he described as the "rust belt". He said that the movement of industry and jobs in the United