

speech will be short, so he will have a chance to speak after I do, tomorrow morning at four o'clock.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to have this opportunity to tell the House what the men and women of my riding of Manicouagan think of the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States. It is a fact, Mr. Speaker, that on November 21 the people of Manicouagan voted to give the Conservative party a renewed mandate. In 1984, voters in the riding had given the Prime Minister a majority which was more than comfortable by any standard and they did so again this time, and just as resoundingly. The riding of Manicouagan, Mr. Speaker, stretches westward to the town on Franquelin and along the Côte Nord to the town of Blanc-Sablon, also encompassing Ungava Bay communities to the north of Kujuuak.

Manicouagan then, Mr. Speaker, is a riding of vast expanses and those who live there are hard working people who, over the last 35 years, have contributed to the nation's economic development. Through their work in iron mines, in the forest and fishing industries, they have contributed, over these years, hundreds of millions in personal and business income tax dollars. These hard working men and women have met challenges in the past...

[English]

—and they are ready now to face a new challenge in strongly supporting free trade.

[Translation]

In my riding, Mr. Speaker, three sectors will benefit from the Free Trade Agreement: these are mining, forestry and fisheries.

The mining sector, iron mining more specifically, has been the engine of economic growth in the western part of my riding. Year after year since 1953, Mr. Speaker, millions of tons of iron ore extracted from Mont Wright, in Quebec, and Wabush and Labrador City, in Labrador, are shipped to steel mills in Canada and the United States. In the last few years, iron ore shipped from the ports of Sept-Îles, Pointe Noire and Port-Cartier has met with heavy competition from Brazilian ore.

[English]

The Free Trade Agreement will first contribute to protect our exports of iron ore to the United States. Second, large tonnages, millions of tonnes of iron ore, are shipped from Sept-Îles, Pointe Noire and Port-Cartier to the Canadian steel mills of Sidbec at Tracy,

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

Quebec, and to the mills of Stelco and Dofasco at Hamilton, Ontario.

We all know that every year our Canadian steel industry sells great quantities of its steel product to the United States.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, we also know that the Americans regularly apply special tariffs and quotas on the steel products they import when they feel that their own steel industry is threatened. Most of these measures are aimed at steel goods from Asian countries in Asia but these restrictive measures also apply to Canadian steel.

The Free Trade Agreement will protect our Canadian exports against these restrictive measures and quotas imposed by the American Government. The mechanism provided for under the Free Trade Agreement will exclude our steel exports from the special tariffs imposed by the American Congress. They will make it possible for us to increase our steel exports to the United States, because our products are more competitive. By selling a greater amount of their products to the United States, our steel industry will use more iron ore from the North Shore, thereby ensuring more stable jobs and additional new jobs for the young people in my riding.

• (2420)

[English]

As mentioned earlier this week the danger to our iron ore and steel exports to the United States does not come from some small non-unionized mills located in the southern United States but from large non-unionized steel mills operating in Korea, Japan, India, and pretty soon now from China. That is from where the dangers are coming, not from the United States. Stelco, our largest and oldest steel manufacturing firm, knows that. Dofasco also did not hesitate to purchase the Algoma plants at Sault Ste. Marie. These people are not afraid of free trade. Members of the Liberal and New Democratic Parties from the Hamilton and from the Sault Ste. Marie areas should know about that, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

The workers in Havre-Saint-Pierre also voted massively for the Free Trade Agreement. Mr. Speaker, these people from the North Shore know that the titanium ore which they mine from the Quebec soil near Allard Lake is used in the manufacturing of a great many products, including paints and alloys.