

Free Trade

political institutions. As the trade agreement recognizes the basic principles of the right to establishment and national treatment, American service companies will be able to defy any Canadian practice which could limit their ability to compete in Canada.

The final text includes a detailed list of service industries which are covered by the agreement. The list is complete and covers such sectors as insurance, real estate, tourism and data processing. By agreeing to the inclusion of services, the Government has made concessions without knowing the true consequences of its actions. Neither the Government nor the Macdonald Commission have examined the impact of such an agreement on the service sector. Mr. Speaker, 83 per cent of working women are employed in the service sector. In what was certainly one of the most alarming submissions presented to the Parliamentary Committee, the Association of Independent Data Processing Services predicted the loss of 360,000 jobs in data processing services by 1993, which jobs are mostly held by women.

[*English*]

With regard to the service sector, just a couple of days ago I raised the problem of including in this accord the right of private firms in the United States to compete for contracts in the management of our hospital services, our ambulance services, and nursing home services, a total of 47 categories in the medical field. The Prime Minister was veritably buffoonish in response. We never anticipated that they would be included in this agreement, but we found it in the document.

• (1430)

When it was suggested that this might have some impact on public medicare, we were again attacked for raising red herrings and were told that this was a bogus concern. They laughed about it.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): He has not read it.

Mr. Broadbent: As the Leader of the Opposition said, probably the Prime Minister had not even read that section.

Mr. Lewis: Nonsense and you know it. You have not read it.

Mr. Broadbent: I can tell the Hon. Member that I have read it and, as the leader of a Party that brought medicare to Canada, I am deeply concerned about what the Conservatives are doing in this regard. I hope the Member will join in the debate. I would like him to deal with the question.

I want to put it as clearly as I can—

Mr. Lewis: Please do. It has not been clear up to now. It is nonsense.

Mr. Broadbent: If he will listen—

Mr. Lewis: I am listening.

Mr. Broadbent: I will put the point and I hope he will respond.

Mr. Lewis: Do not make allegations that the Prime Minister has not read it.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Not only did he read it, he wrote it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: The Member is really testing our credibility. He wants us to believe that the Prime Minister can both read and write.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: I will leave out the question of whether the Prime Minister read this part of the document. That is irrelevant to my argument.

The point is that I am concerned about the wording that is there. We need not believe that there is a sinister plot by the Americans, simply that they want to make money, which, in the context of their society, is a legitimate notion. If we open the border across the country to American firms so they can start applying for business contracts, they could end up managing our hospitals—

Mr. Lewis: They are in Ontario.

Mr. Broadbent: Let us carry this through. If this goes on and they ultimately manage our nursing homes, our hospitals, our ambulance services, they bring with that not just management techniques but a whole ideology of privatization. We believe in public medicare in this country. That is the point.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: If Conservatives opposite think it is accidental that 35 million Americans do not even have any form of medical insurance, then they do not know much about the historical development of countries. One reason that they do not have that insurance is that there is no commitment to public social policy such as we have established in this country. We do not want our country to regress to that stage.

I hope Canadians will have an opportunity to read and consider the implications of another sector of this agreement. It is that of investment. This agreement sets criteria that will prohibit provincial or federal Governments from attaching performance criteria to investment in this country, and that the establishment of basic market principles are to be the standard for judgment of economic activity. In that respect we are deeply concerned that the new ceiling at which takeovers will be considered in industry and industrial development in Canada is raised to \$150 million. This means that some 500 or fewer companies in Canada will be screened in terms of future takeover bids.