

*Bretton Woods Agreements Act*

Fund, for instance; and there were going to be consultations with all Canadians to find out what they think about the Government's foreign policy with respect to defence.

What happened? Today, after six months in power, the Government has become so closely allied with the conservative administration in the United States that we do not even have a chance to develop an independent foreign policy. Mr. Speaker, I know for a fact, that especially among the Conservative Members from Quebec, who promised a new era and new opportunities for Canada—I do not think Quebecers are anxious to become so closely allied with our American neighbours that we will no longer have a chance to preserve our own culture. For years, Quebecers have been fighting to preserve their own culture and their independence in the economical and cultural sphere. And look at what happened. As soon as the Conservative Government was elected after its many promises to protect that independence, we see the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada getting together to adopt any agreement they please, without really getting a Canadian consensus.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Canadian. I think all Canadians have the ability to develop this country's economy, bearing in mind our neighbours in developing countries. Unfortunately, this Government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, prefers to ignore this, which was made abundantly clear in an article published in *Fortune*. I think that we in the Opposition have a duty to convince the Government that Canadians can build a much stronger economy with their own resources, based on their own needs and those, not only of the United States, our neighbour to the South but of all developing and semi-developed countries, according to the policy established by the previous Government.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Châteauguay (Mr. Lopez), for questions or comments.

**Mr. Lopez:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say I was flabbergasted to hear the comments to the Hon. Member who just spoke, continuing a speech she started yesterday evening. Her comments today were rash and irresponsible, and I was astonished at the lack of respect she showed and indeed insisted on showing towards the Government, the Right Hon. Prime Minister and all Canadians. I think that in her comments, the Hon. Member has not only shown a lack of respect for our Prime Minister but also for the House and all Canadians who have placed their trust in us. And when I speak of trust, in the Government and in our Prime Minister, I need hardly add that Canadians gave us that trust of their own free will, and they are doing so more and more.

I understand the feelings of frustration on that side of the House among Members who fortunately are no longer as numerous as they were. I hope the trend will continue. In fact, they do not need us to reduce their numbers, since it would seem they are doing a pretty good job themselves.

Yesterday, when they were discussing the poorer countries and declaring their solidarity with the developing countries, I know why they were doing that, because considering the attitude of the Liberal Government, if it had continued in the same vein, Canada would soon be one of those countries. With the legacy they gave us, they have already brought this country one step closer to poverty and to a situation where Canada would no longer be providing assistance but would itself be obliged to live on charity. That would soon be the case if we had continued in the same vein and embraced the same policies as the Liberal Government. Everyone knows that they brought this country to utter chaos. There was a time, fifteen years ago, when Canada ranked second in the world, and now we rank seventeenth. It is downright embarrassing to see a country like Canada deteriorate at the rate it has, despite its abundance of resources of which all Canadians are proud.

● (1115)

We are all proud of our Prime Minister and of a Government that, I believe, and I think all Canadians will agree, is the best government Canada has ever had. I think we should all support and stand behind and be proud of our Right Hon. Prime Minister who is an honour to us all. I realize this does not sit well with the Liberal Party, and it will sit even less well if that Party continues to denigrate the representatives of the people of this country. I think there is no doubt in anyone's mind that this is the best Prime Minister Canada has ever had!

**Ms. Copps:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate . . . I do not think the Quebecers who are involved in the Domtar case think our Prime Minister is the best one we ever had. There are many Quebecers in this House, even among the Conservatives, who will say that is not true.

Furthermore, we have here a new Member who, with respect, does not really understand the workings of Parliament, because if he did, he would never tell the House that I have no respect for Parliament. He would have known, in the words of a Former Prime Minister of Great Britain, Sir Winston Churchill, that "it is the right and responsibility of the Opposition to oppose". And if the Hon. Member for Châteauguay (Mr. Lopez) is unable to understand why I am doing so as a Liberal, I am afraid I cannot help him. The Hon. Member truly reflected the spirit and attitude of the Conservatives when he said today in the House that he did not want to continue in the same vein as the Liberals with respect to Canada's foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make one thing clear for all Canadians. We have seen how in the case of Ethiopia, Canadians have shown they have a heart when they see the problems of other countries. And we cannot compare Canada's economic situation with that of Ethiopia. However, it is clear what the position is of a Member of this House who says that if they had continued in the same vein as the Liberal Party, Canadians would no longer have a country. It was the Liberal Party