

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

The farmers in my riding feel that they will be losers. The fishermen in my riding feel that they will be losers, and the youth and senior citizens feel that they will be losers.

Our forefathers came to this country to escape the harsh rule and greed of the class society in Europe. The Scotsmen came here after it was discovered that sheep were more valuable than people and they were evicted from their ancestral lands and told to fend for themselves. The Irish came here to escape oppression and famine in a country where they were not allowed to own their own land or to raise meat to feed themselves. Other Europeans came here to escape tyranny and war, and in Canada, they joined with the French Canadians to build a different, more caring society for themselves and their children.

They wanted to build a country in which there were no lords of the manor. They wanted a country based on rights and freedoms that they could only dream about in Europe at that time. They came here and built such a nation, a nation in which free and caring people were the basic building blocks and in which greed was never a national characteristic.

There are new lords of the manor who are taking over the direction of this country. The American multinational corporations and the Canadian conglomerates with their insatiable appetite for optimum profit margins and who recognize no national boundaries are now orchestrating our society to suit their own ends.

During the recent election campaign, the large corporations spent millions and millions of dollars on advertising which was designed to influence the people of Canada, to threaten their workers, and to scare them with their doomsday predictions to the extent that their point of view won the day. Now they have a Government that will do their bidding for the next four years.

There were election activities of the most undemocratic sort imaginable. These corporations made a mockery of the Election Expenses Act. Now they will have their way in this country. They are the new lords of the manor.

The small farmers, the small inshore fishermen, senior citizens, and the truck drivers of Egmont, how can these ordinary Canadians hope to compete against the corporate might of Canada and the United States? The Economic Council of Canada predicted that there would be approximately 890 jobs created in Prince Edward Island over the next ten years as a result of the Free Trade Agreement. That is an average of 89 jobs a year.

What will be the price we will have to pay for these 89 jobs per year? How many dairy farmers will go out of business to create these 89 office jobs? How many hog farmers will survive once the subsidies to the industry are eliminated? How many potato farmers will suffer when the President of the United States invokes the Mitchell amendment and limits the importation of Canadian potatoes?

Potatoes are Prince Edward Island's major export. Under GATT, Canada succeeded in lifting import quotas ten years ago. Now we will have import quotas again. The economy of Prince Edward Island could be brutalized if our potato and fish exports are subject to limited entry to the United States market.

What will happen to the rural communities of Prince Edward Island when the farmers and fishermen go out of business? What will happen to the small businesses in these small communities? They will disappear and they will not be replaced. There will be no headlines in *The Globe and Mail* as there were when the tragedy of the Gillette Company was announced.

No one will notice the creeping devastation of the agricultural sector in Prince Edward Island. Time will pass and no one will notice as one farmer here and another one there falls by the wayside. The rural areas will slowly but surely become a waste land.

The Free Trade Agreement will finish the family farm in Prince Edward Island. That is why Prince Edward Islanders voted against the Tories in the recent election. They chose to believe the four island Liberal candidates and our esteemed Premier, the Hon. Joseph Ghiz, who said that this deal was a bad deal for P.E.I. and was a bad deal for Canada.

Prince Edward Islanders know their history. They know that the Atlantic area suffered economically when it joined Confederation. We joined in with a great experiment called Canada and redirected our trade east-west rather than south and east. As I said, we suffered economically because of this decision. However, over the years, economic opportunity has been more equalized across the nation. Transportation subsidies, regional development programs, and social programs like workers' compensation, the Canada Pension Plan, and the unemployment insurance program have been put in place. These great advances in the redistribution of our national wealth have given all our citizens an opportunity to share in the prosperity of this great nation.

The people in the Atlantic provinces, the people in the North and the people in the West have the gut feeling