

*Government Orders*

Has anybody in the press gallery of this great nation seen the parallel accords? Has anybody on the government backbenches seen the parallel accords? Has anybody here in this Chamber seen them? Yet we are asked by the minister to accept the flat argument that pollution is in the agreement. It is not even written yet. How in the world can it be in the agreement if it is not written yet?

It is to weep to see what is being done to this country. It is to weep to understand the cynical manipulation of what is going on here today. It is to weep to know that we will have one-half day more next week to debate this and then it is finished. We will get some little tiddly-widdly committee and we might visit some other cities maybe.

Speaking of that, the committee never even travelled to Montreal. It never travelled to Toronto. I suggested in the committee hearings that the reason we did not travel to Montreal and Toronto is because they are too big and there are too many people. They might come to the committee meeting. What an absurdity.

I also want to deal with some substantive factors that are inside the agreement and put them on the record. It is impossible to go through chapter and verse of what is in the agreement, but I have picked a couple of selective items so that members of this House can hear for themselves exactly what we are doing to our Canadian sovereignty and how this bill is a massive capitulation to mindless corporate greed and selfishness with no protection for ordinary people.

One may say that is an outrageous statement of clichés. It is an outrageous statement and it is full of clichés but it is tragically based on fact.

I want to bring to the attention of this House a document that has been distributed by the government called: "North American Free Trade Agreement: An Overview and Description". I want to refer specifically to what this government has signed. On page 16, under the paragraph of intellectual property rights, the following has been agreed to by the Conservative government, the Americans and the Mexican government: "Intellectual property rights, trade secrets generally," are acceptable "as well as protecting"—I want you to listen to this, Madam Speaker—"from disclosure by the government

test data submitted by firms regarding the safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical and agrichemical products".

What did the government sign here? It has signed away the right and the responsibility of an elected government in Canada, and at the provincial level, that once given documentation on the efficacy of a pesticide or a pharmaceutical product that it cannot release the data to the public. What is the point of having a public health department? What is the point of allowing the Canadian people to believe those doctors and public health nurses who look after the children and the elderly of this country who are the whistleblowers against filth, vermin, germs and ill-health? Those whistleblowers are paid by Canadian taxpayers to protect us against pharmaceuticals and agriproducts that are toxins. What is the point of having a health department if we pass this to say that when the government gets the data on efficacy of drugs or of toxins on pharmaceutical products that it cannot release the document?

• (1245)

**Mr. Rodriguez:** A conspiracy of silence.

**Mr. Barrett:** A conspiracy of silence my friend. Do you think the doctors of this country know this? I bet they do not. Do you think the public health nurses know this? I bet they do not.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Do you know it?

**An hon. member:** No.

**Mr. Barrett:** No.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** There is a doctor and he does not know it.

**Mr. Barrett:** Did you know, Madam Speaker, that not one letter was sent out to the health people and caregivers of this country to ask: "Do you think we should sign this right away?"

Do you remember the thalidomide tragedy, Madam Speaker, and the brave doctor in the United States? What was her name? Was it Kelsey, or something to that effect? That one brave woman in the bowels of the huge health bureaucracy in the United States put out a stamp and said: "No, thalidomide will not be sold in the United States". It did not happen here in Canada until after. Canada accepted it. There were no efficacy tests. There was no responsibility. Europe did the same.