

Canadians will also take the offensive to try to develop new standards as a basis for world trade. We may seek to reduce world environmental pollution by refusing to import goods from countries that pollute the environment, or reduce volumes of trade with countries that fail to adhere to international environmental standards. We may become as concerned about goods produced by child or prison labour, or by countries whose domestic distribution of wealth we see as exploitive of its labour force. We may even press the world community to permit the World Trade Organization to levy a tax on international trade in order to create a fund to improve the environmental or social conditions in certain parts of the world.

All of this is speculation. Today we are asked to consolidate and implement the gains served by the agreements signed in Marrakesh. A new round in a formal process is probably some time away, and it may not come again soon in the form of a multilateral world-based negotiation.

We are seeing also a parallel trend in the efforts being made in many parts of the world to liberalize trade on a regional basis. In November, in Indonesia, the APEC leaders set targets all the way to the year 2020. The western hemisphere leaders' meeting in Miami on December 9 is pursuing the objective of hemispheric free trade. The European Community is gaining new members, regional agreements in Africa are in existence, and there is even talk of a regional economic agreement in the Middle East. Perhaps the next great round will be a negotiation amongst regions.

Mention must be made of the Special Joint Committee Reviewing Canada's Foreign Policy and its report of November, 1994, "Principles and Priorities for the Future." This milestone committee was co-chaired by Senator Allan MacEachen and Jean-Robert Gauthier, MP, now Senator Gauthier. I commend all parts of the report to honourable senators, but in the present context, I urge honourable senators to become familiar with Chapter 3, "Building Shared Prosperity." I endorse strongly the explanation and recommendations of the committee as they deal with both short-term and long-term trade issues. I am pleased that the committee's work was unanimously endorsed by its Senate members. Our trade policy here in the Senate is truly bipartisan.

• (1510)

Honourable senators, the Honourable Michael Wilson, the International Trade Minister in the former government, played a major role in negotiating the agreement which the bill before us today will implement. In submitting this bill for approval, the government counts on the support of all parties in this chamber for the fundamental principles of Canadian trade policies set forth in the preamble to the bill; namely, that the cornerstone of our trade policy is the multilateral system of mutually agreed market access conditions and non-discriminatory trade rules; that free, fair and open trade is essential for the future of the Canadian economy and for securing the competitiveness and long-term sustainable development of Canada, and that trade expansion contributes to job creation, achieves higher standards of living, offers greater choice to consumers, and strengthens the Canadian economic union.

Honourable senators, these are the essential objectives this bill seeks to promote. I invite members of the Senate to join in considering its purposes and provisions and in assuring its timely adoption.

**Hon. Lowell Murray:** Honourable senators, on what basis does the honourable senator state that Canada will find itself on the defensive in the future with regard to our cultural industries?

**Senator Austin:** I make that statement on the basis of the work that was done during the negotiations on the Uruguay Round, particularly with respect to attempts by the United States to improve access in world markets for its cultural properties. I refer particularly to the role which France and Canada played in establishing the present arrangement. However, I do not believe for a minute that the United States, in pursuit of its trade policies, will cease and desist on this matter.

**Senator Murray:** Does the government consider the solution arrived at in the multilateral negotiations satisfactory? I am referring to the exemption with regard to cultural industries.

**Senator Austin:** Honourable senators, I can only speak as one senator in saying that while I introduced the bill for the government, the honourable senator has posed a hypothetical question.

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, I asked whether the government considers the solutions arrived at as satisfactory.

To complete the thought, my impression is — and I stand to be corrected — that what was arrived at in the multilateral negotiations is very similar to the exemption that Canada sought and received in the free trade and NAFTA negotiations with regard to cultural institutions.

**Senator Austin:** The brief answer, honourable senators, is that the government signed the agreement and is therefore satisfied with that aspect of it at this time. However, I was hypothesizing that the United States and others would be leading with their old arguments again some time in the near future.

On motion of Senator Lynch-Staunton, debate adjourned.

## BOOK ENTITLED ABOVE THE LAW

### INQUIRY—DEBATE ADJOURNED

**Hon. William M. Kelly** rose pursuant to notice of Tuesday, October 4, 1994:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the book entitled *Above the Law*.

He said: Honourable senators, I wish to take a few moments to talk about a book published last spring which caused quite a stir in official Ottawa circles. The book is Paul Palango's *Above the Law*, with the rather sensational leader: "The shocking but true story of corporate crime and political corruption in Canada." I had intended to air my thoughts on this book last May or June shortly after it was published, but my schedule and the Senate's did not coincide.