

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

would never chose to locate in Montreal if there were only 6 million consumers, never. To be able to attract good R&D or hi-tech company, you need to have a population of at least 50 million.

I wanted to talk about farmers, I wanted to say to Mr. Proulx who claimed that free trade was not good, I can say to Mr. Proulx that only—

An Hon. Member: Who is Mr. Proulx?

Mr. Leblanc: The head of UPA. Were he the least bit intelligent he would invent a kind of cheese the Americans like. But I can tell you that with only one kind of cheese, if 250 million Americans decide to buy cheese, a single brand might feed all the cows in Quebec.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Leblanc: But he did not think of that. He lives in the past, does not believe in the future. So much for that.

Mr. Chairman, it was a pleasure to speak to you this evening, to the people of Longueuil and to other Canadians. Rest assured that with free trade Canada will remain prosperous. Canadians got the message. The Conservatives got the message. Young people got the message. Mr. Bourassa got the message. And smart people who know the rudiments of economics got the message. Over the next 20 years you will come to realize that free trade is the best historical deal ever made by Canada.

• (0050)

[English]

Mr. Rodriguez: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to say this is my maiden speech in this Parliament. I heard a speech earlier tonight by the Hon. Member for Calgary Southwest. That is a Conservative Member. I heard a lot of speeches tonight from the Conservatives, but that was a passionate speech. Imagine a Tory with passion. I have never come across a passionate Tory. It is a contradiction in terms. It is saying that there is such a thing as a progressive conservative.

I want to stir the ashes a little bit with respect to the last election. Hopefully we will find a phoenix or two. I want to stir the memories of Members and of Canadians who are watching here tonight. I heard the Conservatives during the campaign. They talked about lying. They accused certain leaders of the opposition parties of not telling the truth.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Rodriguez: That is right. I heard them in the debates saying that the opposition was going around scaring senior citizens. They said that we were accusing the Prime Minister of lying. I ask you, did I bring my mother on the platform?

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Rodriguez: Did I announce that I was deindexing old age pensions?

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Rodriguez: Did Brian Mulroney say he was deindexing pensions?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Rodriguez: And did he force us to—

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Rodriguez: Who was really lying to the Canadian people? Us?

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Rodriguez: Or was it those terrible Tories over there?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Rodriguez: Absolutely. Do we all remember the *Wheel or Fortune* show in Montreal where they had the smoke and a few mirrors? They started to announce all the Tory candidates from Quebec coming on to the stage. When they had gone through 75, I was still looking. I turned around and said to my wife, "Where is Michel Gravel?" He did not come out of the fog. "Where is Madame Blais-Grenier? Where is Mr. Côté? Where is Monsieur Bissonnette?" They came out of the fog. It was like Godzilla meeting Dracula.

• (0100)

The Deputy Chairman: Order. In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 57, at this time it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith all questions necessary to dispose of the Committee of the Whole stage of the Bill now before the House.

Accordingly, the question is on Clause 2.

Shall Clause 2 carry?