

Mr. Speaker, I conclude, because time is flying. I would like to appeal to the intelligence—

**An Hon. Member:** That's impossible!

**Mr. Fontaine:** Right you are. That's impossible. Thank you. I would like to appeal to the Liberals' and the socialists' intelligence to tell them that this Bill must pass because our businesses need to make money. I appeal to their intelligence, but also perhaps to their credibility, in a way, because the two leaders said before the campaign, "Call an election and we'll see!" We held the election and we won. The next day, they said, "All right. You won your free trade, we'll vote for it."

But there's a little guy, namely the president of the Ontario auto workers' union, Bob White, who sent a little letter to the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) saying that the NDP leader had not fought hard enough against free trade and that they were mad at him for it. They forced the NDP leader and his team, who are the unions' lackeys, who grovel before organized labour . . . and they came back on the attack against free trade. This is costing Canadians dearly and you will have to answer to them. Besides, you are still in the Opposition, that is how you answer for it, and I hope you stay there forever.

Mr. Speaker, free trade is important and we will pass it despite the positions of the two Opposition parties. We will take the time we have to. We will spend night after night here. You can leave at 11 o'clock, but we will go on and pass free trade.

• (1900)

[*English*]

**Ms. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, before I begin to address this urgent matter of the so-called free trade agreement, a deal that will cause hardship, loss of livelihood, and a way of life to thousands of Canadians in different sectors of our economy, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Northumberland for having put their faith in me to be their representative. I am honoured and proud to serve as the Member of Parliament for the riding of Northumberland. I will do all that is within my power to fulfil the mandate with which I have been charged. It brings me here today to participate in the debate on the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States.

I am very concerned about the effect that the Mulroney trade deal will have on the rural life across

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Canada, and especially on the riding of Northumberland on the shores of Lake Ontario, which I have the honour to represent. If this trade deal is approved in its present form, the effects will prove devastating for many of my constituents and thousands of others across Canada.

One of the hardest hit areas will be the agricultural sector. This Mulroney trade deal has not given sufficient consideration to the dangers posed to the Canadian farmer. I propose to discuss some of those dangers, in the hopes that Hon. Members of the House will realize the great harm that will be done to family farms and food processors in Canada if this agreement is implemented without the necessary amendments.

We in the Liberal Party are not, nor have we ever been, opposed to freer trade with the United States and other countries. However, we are opposed to the Mulroney trade deal because of the adverse effects it will have on our Canadian way of life, not only in the agricultural industry, but in energy, resources, health and social programs, and the environment. As my time is limited I will be addressing the profound ill effects this deal will have on agriculture, and I must leave those other issues to be debated by my able colleagues. However, whenever the occasion arises, I will want to speak to the other issues as well.

We all know that trade in agricultural products between Canada and the United States is quite substantial. The United States is a major market for Canadian producers of live animals, beef and pork, while Canada is an important market for American producers of fruits, vegetables, and oilseeds.

Both Canada and the United States have a long tradition of protection and support for agriculture but have done so by completely different means. Canada has relied heavily on the marketing board system, while the United States depends more on direct financial aid to producers. It should be noted that American farm income supports are among the highest in the world. The differences among government programs in both countries, the intractable problems farmers must face, and the fact that, to a large degree, agricultural problems are international, point against putting agriculture on the table. Yet, the Mulroney Government did so, buffet style.

I would like to emphasize that Canada, in my opinion, should never be dependent upon other nations to provide its essential food needs. European nations know this only too well. Here in Canada, despite some national and geographic disadvantages, we are able to feed ourselves.