

Trade Policies

Mr. Herbert: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the House. I have only a few more sentences to conclude my remarks.

Trade flows between the United States and Canada are clearly likely to increase, and the impetus to the establishment of a free trade area is growing stronger.

In an environment of free trade our principal purpose must be to encourage the growth of Canadian-controlled companies in manufacturing and in the resource processing area, which are capable of taking advantage of new export opportunities.

We will need programs to promote investment by Canadian employees in their companies through the encouragement of share sales directly to the employees. There will have to be even more extensive support programs to small business investors in the form of tax incentives and reduced government regulation. Greater incentives will be needed for the development of research and development capacity in Canadian firms in selected, high technology and high potential areas.

I could elaborate at great length on any of these and many more areas in which there will have to be federal intervention if the Canadian industrial sector is to progress and be successful in providing jobs for Canadians. In the meantime, if the new government will cease fighting with foreign countries so as not to make any worse the situation as it is today, at least its inactivity in that area will be of assistance to our industry as a whole.

I thank the House for giving me the opportunity to conclude my remarks.

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure and honour to stand in the House of Commons late on a Friday afternoon with the galleries overflowing and members on every side hanging on to every word uttered.

An hon. Member: Is your mother here?

Mr. Kempling: It is a real pleasure to be here.

Mr. Andras: Many members of the press gallery are up there! Only one!

Mr. Kempling: I must say at the outset that before today I had never heard the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mr. Pepin) speak in this House because, when I came to the House, he left. That was in 1972. He did not return, and I was new. Considering the events of Wednesday of this week, there is a natural assumption that he will be one of the aspirants to the leadership of the Liberal party. I thought it appropriate that I stay here and listen to his remarks. I say in a friendly sense after listening to his rambling report of rubbish, that I suggest he save his money and his emotions and do not run.

Mr. Pepin: That is a shocking blow to my chances. I might never recover.

Mr. Kempling: I am sure the hon. member will take that to heart. I had to give him that bit of advice, for what it is worth to him.

Mr. Pepin: Not much.

● (1620)

Mr. Kempling: Let me say that when I read this ill-conceived motion of the opposition which brought on this debate, I was quite amused by it. Anyone in the official opposition who dares to raise his or her head on this subject, and who has the audacity to point an accusing finger at this government, is either naive, ignorant of the record of the previous government, or stupid. I would have to say that their view is so narrow that they can see through a keyhole with both eyes.

Mr. Pepin: You speak big.

Mr. Kempling: Since I have come to Ottawa I have seen four ministers of industry come and go. We had Alastair Gillespie who was a disaster, and who finally found "a place to happen". We had Don Jamieson whose main talent seemed to be that he was going to look into something and advise, but he never did either. We had the present hon. member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Chrétien), who is not here so I will not be too uncharitable with him, but I would say that somewhere between Indian Affairs, Treasury Board and Finance, he dropped into Industry and, at the most, he was confused. Then, of course, we had Jack Horner. He finally rode into the sunset on May 22 and all of us were happy to see him go. We used to say about Jack that he is as big as a gorilla, as strong as a gorilla, and if he were only as smart as a gorilla, he might have done something with it.

Mr. Knowles: That is no way for a Tory to talk about a Tory.

Mr. Kempling: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) says this is no way to talk about a Tory. I heard this morning that he is one of the candidates for the leadership of the Liberal party, so I do not really know what his politics are.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Kempling: Well, he is going to be the leader of something; let us put it that way.

Mr. Andras: If at first you do not succeed, try and try again.

Mr. Kempling: I must say, about the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton, that I have seen his smiling face; I heard someone describe him as the chortling cherub of chutzpah, and I must say I have seen his smiling face many times, and he has built quite an image. Not having met him, like a lot of football players who have press clippings, I thought he was a pretty good guy, but I looked into the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce when I came down here and ever since I have been here, and I could not find anything of value on which he left his smile or his thumb-print. While he was highly regarded as a very nice person, I cannot see that he put the country or our trade in any particular direction.