

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

that the process would be so long and painful. It has been just about nine months since the end of March.

I was happy to accept his invitation. I believe that this is a positive benefit for Canadians. I realize this will not produce economic miracles. It will put Canada into a favoured position among the nations of the world. The United States is still the largest and most prosperous market of any country in the world. The Free Trade Agreement will give us an immeasurable sense of security, particularly if the rest of the world is not successful in the Uruguay round of the GATT discussions that are now under way.

This is an agreement that strengthens Canadian nationalism; that strengthens the opportunity for the development of Canadian culture; that strengthens every region of the country economically; that gives Atlantic Canada a new chance. I have visited Nova Scotia frequently. I heard the complaint that Nova Scotia had been done in by Confederation in 1867, that it had been a prosperous place based on north-south trade until it entered Confederation. Then Ontario and Québec imposed high tariffs and stifled progress forever in Nova Scotia. What would happen in Nova Scotia if that tariff arrangement were ever changed? We are now removing the shackles from the Nova Scotia economy that they complained about for 110 years of Confederation. They are being removed from New Brunswick where the Premier supports this agreement. Despite the fact that he is a Liberal, he continued to give the agreement his support during the election campaign. The Premier of Newfoundland supports it. We only have one maritime Premier who does not, and that is the Premier of Prince Edward Island.

This deal is good for every region of Canada. This is a positive step forward for Canada. It is good for all Canadians. It is good for the people I represent. I cannot think of any strong, persuasive, rational argument against entering into this Free Trade Agreement. That is why I am proud to have participated in this process. That is why we are prepared to spend every day from now until New Year's Day to see that this gigantic step forward for Canada becomes law and takes effect on January 1, 1989. The time has come for that to be done.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): We have had a lot of time this last week to sit in our chairs and reflect. I have come to an important revelation. I now know what the definition of "hell" is. It is having to sit in my chair until 2.00 a.m. passing clauses that I

have never had a chance to debate and getting up four or five hours later and listening to the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) for two hours. There is no more cruel and inhumane punishment than the combination of experiences the Members have been put through.

I do not want to disrupt the Christmas season with the same obnoxious remarks that the Minister made. Before the Hon. Minister runs away for his lunch break at the local gas station, let me pass on to him something that the members of the Liberal caucus suggest as a Christmas gift to the man who has nothing.

We have thought longingly about the Minister for International Trade and what would be the appropriate gift for him at Christmastime. We know he has not had time to write Santa Claus, so we are here in the full spirit of generosity and charity to make a contribution. It came to our desk. It is entitled, "The John Deer Spreader Handles More Manure Faster to Save You Time".

"Let's face it. There are other things you would rather do than spend a lot of time spreading manure. That is why we introduced a new 350 Spreader with reliability and performance that gets you out of the field fast. Not only does the new 350 Spreader save you time, it is economically priced. So whatever you would rather do with your time and your money, the 350 Spreader will help you make it possible."

We have the ideal Christmas gift to replace the Minister for International Trade, and that is the 350 Spreader. Just think of the time we would save the Canadian people. Just think of how the people watching television would be saved an excruciating experience if we had a spreader in the place of the Minister. We would get that manure out an awful lot quicker and more efficiently than what we have today.

In the same spirit of generosity, I want to help the Minister on another small item. It seems that the only poignant moment in the whole speech was when he appealed for a new job.

Ms. Copps: The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) was listening.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): We hope the Prime Minister was listening.

The Minister said that he would rather be in another place. That is a sentiment shared by about eight or nine million Canadians.

I pass on to him an offer I saw from one of those American corporate giants that he so longingly loves.