

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

General Motors has 24 plants in the Maquiladora zone of Mexico, employing 27,000 workers. If we are talking about a level playing field, that is not it.

Let us look at another advantage. Industries which relied on cheaper Canadian energy, industries that are energy intensive, no longer have to come to Canada to get it either for the consumption of energy or for the transformation of energy into a further by-product. They can now take our abundant Canadian energy and use it to produce and sell back the finished goods into Canada.

We have given up one of the great advantages we were given at the time of creation. While we got the distances and the cold weather, we were given the energy. But we have now given away that one advantage.

When we consider further as a board of directors where we would locate our new plant, we must consider, as more of our Canadian financial institutions are taken over by American firms, whether we would want to be closer to the head offices where the real decisions are made.

Finally, we have not defined subsidies under this trade deal. U.S. trade law will still apply so that we have no exemption from Section 301 of the 1974 trade Bill and no exemption from the omnibus trade Bill. The U.S. trade laws can still apply, and will apply, as they are amended by the Americans from time to time. We did not get that exemption.

If we are going to establish our plant, we are going to put it in the United States so that if Canada applies its trade laws we would lose only one-tenth of the market. It will not be put in Canada where the U.S. can still apply its trade laws and wipe out nine-tenths of our market.

I despair under this trade deal as to whether we will get those new jobs, those new industries that have been promised to us.

I think we have an even greater challenge in Canada in terms of our economic destiny. Canada is largely a resource based economy. In 1930, Argentina, a country similar to Canada in many ways, had the fourth highest standard of living in the world. It is now thirtieth.

Are we going the way of Argentina? How do we learn to compete head-on with the great manufacturing powers such as Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, the Common Market countries and the United States? They did not do it simply through trade

deals. In Canada it will require a concerted effort and a new way of looking at things. Simply allowing the market-place to determine the types of jobs we have in Canada will not give us what we need. I suggest that to be world leaders in this fight for competitiveness, Canadians, over the next few years, will have to start looking 20 and 30 years down the road to see where we want to be. We will have to start planning what type of economy we will build.

● (1820)

For those in the House to whom planning is an anathema, take a look at successful businesses. They plan their futures. They have five and 10-year plans and work toward them. If we are to be successful the way many of the newly-emerging industrialized countries have been, we too will have to plan. We will have to put together our best management, labour, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and educators, and set directions for where we want to be and then work toward those plans.

One very major component of anything we will achieve has to be education. We in Canada are falling behind our major world competitors in the way we educate our people. We have the fewest scientists and engineers being graduated of any industrialized nation. In terms of skills training, only 30 per cent of the people who graduate from high school either go on to post-secondary education or have actual skills training. That means that 70 per cent of our young people are going into the workforce untrained. We have to address this problem immediately.

I commend to Hon. Members of all Parties the National Apprenticeship Council that was recommended in our platform for this election, bringing together Government, business, labour and educators to set in place a national apprenticeship program. I believe that we can learn extensively from Local 183 of the International Labourers Union and Local 506 of the Operating Engineers Union, which in Toronto have entered into cooperative arrangements with the businesses they work with. The unions and businesses are working very closely together to set up their own training programs to meet the needs that are not being met in any other fashion.

On September 16, Jean de Grandpre the head of the Prime Minister's Industrial Readjustment Council, indicated in a speech to the Montreal Neurological Institute that in Japan, 8.6 per cent of the Gross National Product is spent on education. In Canada, it is about