

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

and Canadians to think clearly about what type of society they wanted. As the election shows, most Canadians in Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing and across this country said "no" to the type of Canada proposed by the Government across the aisle. Second, it flushed out this Government's and the business community's neo-Conservative agenda for this country.

This Free Trade Agreement is really an economic constitution for Canada. It establishes the market as the final decision-maker over important economic and social issues which we in Canada have grown to see as being partly the responsibility of our democratically-elected governments. It is not just a commercial or business deal. It strikes at the heart of Canada's social fabric.

It is worth noting that virtually all of the business organizations which supported the Free Trade Agreement have been promoting a neo-Conservative social and economic agenda over the past decade at both the federal and provincial levels. Only yesterday they were calling, as we have heard today in this House, for a review of social spending in Canada. This provides opponents of the Free Trade Agreement with legitimate and real grounds for suspecting that social programs and regional development subsidies are at risk.

This is not a commercial deal but a reflection of the political, social and economic agenda which is totally unacceptable to the majority of Canadians, as the election on November 21 showed. This Conservative Government has given in to its big business friends. It is a case of whoever pays the piper calls the tune.

This deal is bad for Canada in so many ways that we cannot deal with all of it in a short 20 minutes. Therefore, I would like to concentrate on two issues—agriculture, and social and health programs.

We all remember the assertions made by the government Ministers that agriculture was not on the table. Yet against the advice of most agricultural organizations and the advice of the Macdonald Commission, agriculture was included in this deal. It is by far the largest article in the Free Trade Agreement.

What about agriculture? As all Members know, most farmers are opposed to the Free Trade Agreement. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the largest farm body in the country, called it a "threat to many sectors of agriculture and unacceptable in its present form". The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool says that the deal will undermine the Canadian Wheat Board and other marketing boards. The Canadian Wheat Board Advisory Committee said the same thing. The National

Farmers Union, the Federations of Agriculture in Quebec, Nova Scotia and Ontario all came out strongly opposed to the implications of this deal. Even some of the Government's own advisors have indicated this Free Trade Agreement is bad for agriculture.

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Why is there so much opposition to this if the Government says it is so good? Farmers across the country agree that supply-management across a wide range of agricultural products is threatened.

Last weekend I met with representatives of supply-managed sectors in my constituency. The riding contains significant chicken, turkey and egg producers, between 75 per cent and 80 per cent of Saskatchewan's dairy industry. They all fear for their existence under this deal. Tariff removals and expansion of global and supplemental quotas threaten Canada's supply-management system which has served both producers and consumers well. Provisions which allow producers access to cheaper U.S. imports pose a real threat to our farm and our rural communities.

The Government tells farmers that they need not worry, that marketing boards are safe. Farmers in Saskatchewan did not believe the Government on November 21 and they do not believe the Government now. It is for good reason.

In his recent debate with Michael Dukakis in the presidential elections, President-Elect Bush said that he was opposed to supply-management. The U.S. government's position at GATT to remove Article 11 which permits supply-management has been supported by the Government. It is not surprising that our supply-managed agriculture sectors feel threatened by this deal and by the Government.

Grain farmers fear for the continued existence of the Wheat Board and we have seen moves against that in recent weeks. The list goes on and on.

The Government seems unable to understand or is prepared to ignore that giving up control at the border will destroy our marketing boards and destroy the agricultural industries and the rural communities they serve.

Furthermore, the health of Canadians is at stake here. The Americans have lower health standards, lower sanitary standards, and lower production standards than us. Practices are permitted in the United States which we will not tolerate here. This Free Trade Agreement will give rise, through the harmonization process, to