

Government Orders

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Just hold on for a second. The hon. member for Rosemont on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Tremblay (Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, I am willing to give my consent, but I want to be sure to be able to speak on Bill C-348 later. Can I get consent from the House in this?

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): This is on Private Members' Business, and I see no problem with that. Now it is up to the hon. member. If I designate another five minutes will that be sufficient?

Mr. MacWilliam: Mr. Speaker, I had planned on only taking my normal time allocation of 10 minutes. I am not quite sure how long I have spoken, but perhaps four or five minutes more would be quite sufficient.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Rosemont wants to speak on the private member's bill.

Mr. Tremblay (Rosemont): Yes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All right. We will not see the clock and will let the hon. member for Okanagan—Shuswap carry on.

Mr. MacWilliam: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the indulgence of the House. I will attempt to be as pertinent as I can.

Just before the debate was interrupted I was about to cite some Statistics Canada data demonstrating the impact of the current Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and what it has done to jobs in Canada. These Statistics Canada figures show that the total number of manufacturing jobs in Canada fell by over 400,000 from the end of 1988 to 1992. That is in the manufacturing industry alone. One in five manufacturing jobs in Canada have been lost subsequent to the FTA coming in.

Many of those jobs are gone for good. They are not coming back. The reason they are not coming back is because plants have been closed, they have shut down, they have been moth-balled or in some cases, as was the case in Annacis Island in British Columbia, the plant was literally picked up, packed away and moved south of the border. That situation is a grievous situation and is one

that Canada will continue to struggle with as that structural change takes effect.

We warned before the free trade agreement came in that if it was brought in we would see these kinds of plant closures taking place throughout Canada. That is exactly what has taken place.

For example, plant closures have accounted for nearly half of all the manufacturing jobs lost in Ontario between 1989 and 1990. Those closures have been particularly severe in the areas of textiles, clothing, food and furniture manufacturing. I would like to turn to a quote that talks about the impact of this job loss and it is from a critique entitled "The Global Trade Challenge" by Mr. Bruce Campbell. He says: "Look what has happened to the jobs in these sectors in the last three years". He is talking about the period subsequent to the FTA.

• (1705)

He continues: "Furniture has lost 22,700 jobs, 33 per cent of all furniture jobs; 12,395 textile jobs have disappeared, 22 per cent of the entire sector; 42,000 clothing jobs have vanished, 35 per cent of all clothing jobs; plastics has lost 22,000, again a collapse of 35 per cent of all jobs in the sector. In auto parts 20,000 jobs have gone, 22 per cent of the sector. The machinery sector has lost 30,200 jobs, 31 per cent of the sector. Printing and publishing saw a loss of 23,400 jobs, 15 per cent of the sector. Over all, manufacturing has lost more than 20 per cent or 416,700 jobs".

That is a pretty sad state of affairs, and it puts the lie to the government's claim that free trade would be a true economic panacea for this country. We can see what it has done to our country, we can see what it has done to our economy. It has devastated the Canadian economy.

I want to say that the proposal of going into the next phase, which is the North American free trade agreement, only makes that bad situation even worse. If we go into this trilateral agreement the United States will have received all the pieces of the puzzle together: access to cheap Canadian resources and access to cheap Canadian labour.

Canada and Mexico will become the warehouse and the sweat-house for the U.S. based multinationals while they persevere with this idea of a level international playing field so they can move capital and assets around wherever they wish.