

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

**Mr. Charest:** It was about the textile policy.

**Mr. Boudria:** That is what I just read, yes. I know I read it kind of quick, but—

**Mr. McDermid:** And he has been elected twice since then.

**Mr. Boudria:** I am sure the Hon. Minister would have picked that up, that it was about the textile industry.

**Mr. Charest:** Yes, because they support us.

**Mr. Boudria:** The Government said fair trade but not free trade. We would be swamped, said the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Charest:** There is no free trade in textiles.

**Mr. Boudria:** Let me read to you another document and see if the Conservative Members recognize this one.

**The Chairman:** The Minister of State on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

**The Deputy Chairman:** The Minister of State for Youth and Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Charest) on a point of order.

**Mr. Charest:** A point of order, Mr. Chairman. I will not intervene at length in the remarks of my colleague from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria). Presumably this document was published or released in July 1984 during the previous election campaign. It relates to an issue which is of great interest to the residents of the riding of Sherbrooke, namely the textile, clothing and footwear industry. I would have thought the Hon. Member would make that clear. But since we are talking about the campaign of 1984, I take this opportunity to set the record straight concerning his statement, and I can tell you right now that the Sherbrooke textile industry supported the Government in the 1988 election, as did all textile workers who denounced the Liberals—

[*English*]

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Chairman, that was not a point of order. It was not even a good point.

Let me continue reading from these important documents. Let us see if the Conservative Members recognize this one: "It would render Canada a field for American capital into which it would enter as freely for the prosecution of public works and private enterprise as into any of the present states. It would equalize the

value of real estate on both sides of the boundary, thereby probably doubling at once the entire present value of property in Canada. Whilst giving stability to our institutions and introducing prosperity, it would raise up public, corporate and private credit. It would increase our commerce, both with the U.S. and foreign countries, and would necessarily diminish to any great extent our intercourse with Great Britain into which our products would for the most part enter on the same terms as at the present. It would render our rivers and canals as highways for immigration to and export from the West and to incalculable benefits for our country".

**Mr. Charest:** Would you repeat the last phrase?

**Mr. Boudria:** "It would also introduce manufacturers into Canada as rapidly as they have been introduced into the northern states".

**Mr. Charest:** He can read.

**Mr. Boudria:** Pardon me?

**Mr. Charest:** I said you can read.

**Mr. Boudria:** I know Members across the way are very curious about this document which speaks so highly about how a certain measure would increase trade between Canada and the U.S. Perhaps I should tell them what I have been reading. I have been reading to Conservative Members the Annexation Manifesto of 1849. That really describes well the kind of attitude we see across the way now that existed in 1849.

**Mr. Charest:** Really up to date in your research. We thought you were only one election late, looks like you are a century and a half late.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chairman, the more things change, the more they remain the same!

[*English*]

I want to talk about the effects of this free trade deal. We have heard about the closure of the Gillette plant on November 24, at a cost of 590 jobs. We have heard about the closure of the Ortho plant on November 25, 16 jobs lost. There is the closure of the PPG Canada Incorporated plant on November 26, 139 jobs lost. Then there is the closure of British Footwear on November 28, 50 jobs lost. The closure of Northern Telecom on December 7, 870 jobs lost. Those are all closures since the Government was re-elected on November 21.

**Mr. Charest:** What about the openings?