

operating in Canada—the right to sell in the United States as much or as little of our non-renewable resources, including electricity, as they choose. Canadian governments, both federal and provincial, are going to have little or no control over this process.

I want to refer directly to the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and specifically to the chapter on energy, Chapter 9. The articles within that chapter give to our U.S. counterparts access to our resources and proportional sharing of our resources. That is to say, once we have established an export market in electricity, for example, and if we were to undergo a shortage in Canada, we could not cut back on that commodity export to the United States unless we cut back the equivalent amount to our own domestic customers. It gives them equal access to a resource that is going to be critically important in Canada's future.

It goes on to say in Article 907 that neither party, neither the U.S. nor Canada, shall maintain or introduce a measure restricting imports of energy goods from or any exports of an energy good to the other party. We cannot restrict access once that access is granted. In times of shortage, in times of crisis, we cannot cut back on those export supplies unless we in fact cut back even to our own customers.

I maintain and reiterate that this piece of legislation, as innocent as it looks, is the legislative process by which we are moving in to free trade in our energy resources with the United States. As innocent as this piece of legislation is, I maintain it is extremely vital to Canada's future and in the ability of we as a nation to maintain some degree of control over these resource commodities in the future. Once we lose control of our energy resources, we lose control of our economy. That is why this bill is so critically important.

Electricity is a strategic commodity. The United States knows that. The free trade agreement had nothing to do with reduction of tariff barriers, although that is included in it. What the United States wanted out of the free trade agreement and got was clear access to Canada's non-renewable resources. We all know darn well that south of the border the Americans are running short on their resources, their energy supplies, their water. They now have to import oil supplies. They have an energy wasteful economy. Now they have an energy short economy. They are turning to Canada, to our waters, to our subterranean fossil fuels. They are turning to Cana-

da as a resource haven to continue their mindless process of industrial and economic expansion.

• (1420)

That is why this piece of legislation is so vital to debate. If we let it go through we will in fact be relinquishing control of a very vital resource, and that is our energy supplies.

Based upon that argument I think it is no surprise that my colleagues and I will certainly not be supporting this legislation.

**Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for my colleague, the member for Okanagan—Shuswap, who in a previous incarnation was a member of the British Columbia legislature for an area which is now within my federal riding of Kootenay West—Revelstoke, particularly representing the communities of Burton, Fauquier and Edgewood, and what used to be the community of Arrow Park. He has shown by his remarks that he fully understands the apprehension, even the fear, of many people in the West Kootenay Basin and the Columbia River Valley of any measure such is now before us which tends to weaken the potential power of the public to have some say in what happens to our electrical energy resources and the water resources that are connected to them.

He will also be fully aware of the massive rejection of the free trade agreement that took place in his area and in ours, where in elections from 1974 through 1979, through 1980 and 1984, margins were some 700 votes no matter whether they were in favour of myself of the New Democratic Party or of Mr. Brisco of the Conservative Party.

In this last election it was up around the 4,000 figure. The reason for that was that in many parts of his constituency, as in mine, we were once before in Canadian history the guinea pigs for a continental energy policy when the Columbia River Treaty was shoved down our throats even with public hearings. We lost our communities. We lost some of the best farm land and some of the best forest land in the province of British Columbia.

It is because of that experience and that fear that we so massively rejected what we thought was at the heart of the free trade agreement espoused by the government.