

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

But as you would know, Mr. Chairman, older Canadians had their revenge because the Liberals and the NDP treated them like ignorant and naive people. They called them everything under the sun, and they would have us believe things that did not make any sense. So of course they voted for Nic Leblanc of Longueuil.

They also talked about the flag game, you know, the American flag going up and the Canadian flag going down. What misleading statements!

I had the privilege to have as Opposition candidate at home, a Liberal candidate in Longueuil, a distinguished gentleman called Michel Dupuis, a former ambassador to Paris, the chief adviser to the Official Opposition for External Affairs. You know what he wrote in his mailings?

Some Hon. Members: No!

Mr. Leblanc: Beware! Beware! This is a former ambassador speaking. Beware, the Americans are coming! He was referring to dignity. People in Longueuil should have someone they deserve. He was referring to dignity, stating in his ads: Beware, the Americans are coming! Imagine! A former ambassador! This is much viler than I thought. I thought he meant the Americans were coming to buy our products. I told my people: This makes no sense, it is much too low. He must mean the Americans are coming to buy our products, they are coming to help us make our industries grow and create jobs. I found that so vile I could not let the people think that a former ambassador, an official who represented Canada, could say anything so vile. He wanted to protect the dignity of this Parliament and the famous people who are representing us around the world.

Service industries have a yearly \$24 billion sales figure. Seventy per cent of our Gross National Product. In Canada, 8.8 million jobs are associated with the service industries.

With free trade, the service industries will have an opportunity to operate in the United States. And I can tell you that all those service industries eventually will be able to operate there. The way they treated service industries—Mr. Garneau, whom I can name because he is no longer here, said we did not have in Quebec people intelligent enough to compete with the Americans in the service industry. I would like to tell Mr. Garneau that I find it rather sad that an insurance company would hire him. We have especially in Montreal, since I am very close to Montreal, I am more familiar with what is going

on in Montreal, I can tell you that in Montreal there are companies like SNC, Lavalin, great service industries. Lavalin for instance is the third largest service corporation in the world.

I can say that Lavalin is very proud of the fact that the Conservatives have come to power since it will now be in a position to do even more business with the United States and to keep on moving ahead. With greenbacks worth more than our currency coming in, Lavalin will be in a position to create more jobs in our fine city of Montreal, on the south shore, in Quebec and in Canada. As you well know, last summer the leader of the Opposition stated in a press conference that free trade with the United States would not be a good thing for us. He said that we should make rules whereby we could sell to all countries of the world rather than limiting our sales to the United States. But, as you know, that would mean the *status quo*. He was talking about something we have already been doing for 50 years. It is a well known fact that for some thirty years now, the European Community are joined in an economic agreement. Japan and Asia have decided to do the same. They are about to enter into an economic agreement.

We have been trying to increase our sales in Europe for 100 years, but even now we only sell 7 per cent of our products in that part of the world. Only 7 per cent of all our exports go to Europe. Europe is one of the most industrialized and advanced region of the world, where you find a lot of consumers, where the workers are well paid, etc. Yet, we only sell them 7 per cent of our products. We are unable to sell our products to Japan, because it is technologically more advanced than we are. We don't do much better with the Africans, the Asians, the Brazilians, or the Central Americans, because they don't have much money to spend. So, what market is still available to us, what market would allow us to grow as a nation? The United States! For fifty years now, we have had access to this natural market, and we will continue to do so. It only proves that the leader of the official Opposition never understood and still does not understand what free trade with the United States is all about.

Let's take for example the Montreal area, a small circle here, which I talked about during the campaign. On an 800 kilometres area, in the Montreal region, we draw a circle from Montreal where 75 million people live, that is 75 million consumers. I am sure you realize that if the Americans were to put a barrier between Canada and the United States, that would only leave 6 million consumers in the Montreal area. A company