

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

legislative variation Clause 6 in the agreement undermines that capacity. That is to be severely regretted.

One thing that has been instructive to me as I looked at the election results and listened to this debate is the profound division that we are building in this country on fundamental issues of the future and vision for Canada.

It has been said that only the winners in this election are properly interpreting the view of the Canadian people. But let us break that down on a regional basis. As has been said, eight of the ten provinces, taken on that view, voted against the Free Trade Agreement. If we consider which provinces and which areas of Canada voted against the agreement, we find ourselves at an historical oddity.

Traditionally it has been the regions which have tended to object to protectionism and the National Policy to the extent that they did, and it has been the so-called heartland of southern Ontario and Quebec that have tended to favour the National Policy and tariffs. Yet we have seen in the recent election results that it is the regions of Canada, including the Atlantic provinces, northern Ontario, the West and British Columbia, that have voted most strongly and forcefully against this Free Trade Agreement.

I believe from my own experience that these sections of Canada voted against the Free Trade Agreement because it was their perception that the protections which had been built in over the last 120 years for an independent Canadian economy were essential to their vision of this country. It is a matter of deep resentment, in our part of the country at least, that this has not been understood, particularly in the Province of Québec. While we may not have expected a lot better of Toronto and the Golden Horseshoe, we did hope that our brothers and sisters in the Province of Quebec might have been more sensitive to the perspective that we were offering to Canada. It is a perspective that we were prepared to pay a price to be Canadian. We are prepared to pay a price to be Canadians. We do not insist on goods at the cheapest price. We recognize that if we are to be an independent country and if we are to speak with an independence in the world, we need to have these protections. We need to have an independent economy in Canada.

It appears that within a few hours the House will pass the free trade legislation. Within a week it will become law. In doing so, we in this Parliament and in the legislatures across Canada will give up substantial rights. We will give up rights to regulate our energy

policy. We will give up rights to regulate investment. We will give up rights to regulate our own economy and to develop innovative social and economic experiments. We will give up rights to have policies that favour Canadian or local businesses in Government purchasing.

● (1540)

This is to be regretted on a number of grounds. It is to be regretted because of its impact on confederation. It is to be regretted because it will leave us with only military spending as the main vehicle for regional development in Canada, to add further to militarization of our economy. It is to be regretted because in selling so much of what we have, we have failed to get the guarantees the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised. We have failed to get protection against American countervailing duties and legislation.

The Prime Minister and the Conservative Party paid a price to get this deal. During this election campaign, they were forced to make a series of commitments to the Canadian people. Chief among those commitments was the Prime Minister's view, as he said in a speech during the election campaign, that the re-election of his Government would ensure the enhancement of social programs. He made his solemn pledge again that a Conservative Government would not dismantle our social networks. That price may have gone against the grain, but it was a price the Government had to pay in order to get this deal.

We will, over the next four years, remind the Prime Minister of that commitment. If for a second time he betrays the Canadian people in their trust, the Prime Minister can count on hearing from these benches.

There will be three points of observation for us during the next four years. Under the terms of the agreement, there will be five to seven years of negotiations surrounding countervail. Those negotiations will, I hope, begin immediately. We will be watching those negotiations.

Second, the Government has again made a solemn commitment that it will protect workers who have been dislocated. The depth and generosity of that commitment, as we have heard it in the last two weeks, may yet be tested. We have heard words with no action, but we will be watching.

Finally, the Government will have opportunities to strengthen our social programs. The Government will have an opportunity to build regional economies across Canada. The Government will have an opportunity to