

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

period. That is an average of 18,000 jobs per year. It says that there will be a net gain of jobs likely from the agreement of 251,000 over the period. Remember that our leading economic forecasters say that the result of the Free Trade Agreement is a net increase in jobs. It states: 439,000 jobs created, 187,000 lost, 251,000 net increase. Naturally, we have to be concerned about 187,000 jobs that may be lost. But this country already has a plethora of programs to deal with people who are unemployed and who are in between jobs.

Every year in our dynamic economy something like 3.5 million to five million people change jobs during the year. We have programs. We have the Canadian Jobs Strategy. There are programs of the Department of Labour, programs in the Department of Unemployment and Immigration, programs in the Department of Industry, Science and Technology, to help people who are in between jobs now, and during the time of the Free Trade Agreement or whatever.

Let us get this in perspective. The adjustment might be an adjustment for 187,000 people over a 10-year period. Anyone can come into this House and try to pretend every day that there is some huge emergency outside because of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, but that is pure bluff on their part. That is trying to create a perception. The problem is that there could be adjustments for 187,000 people likely over a 10-year period.

If new programs are needed to assist in any particular area, and there may be several particular areas in which the agreement has adverse effects outside the normal effects, we will be ready with special programs if special programs are needed, just as they were produced for the grape growers of Canada. Let us give the Free Trade Agreement a fair chance.

Once members of the Opposition have finished bemoaning the fact that they lost the election, that they were not successful, once that sinks in and the Free Trade Agreement is here, opposition Members will be good Canadians and give this agreement a chance to work—

**Mr. Harvard:** For how long?

**Mr. Crosbie:** I would say it would be reasonable to give it three years in any event. There is not likely to be an election for four years.

**Mr. Harvard:** Tell us how we are going to get out of it if it is bad.

**Mr. Crosbie:** The hon. gentleman wants to know how to get out of it if it is bad. If it is bad, we can give six months' notice and terminate it. Under the Auto Pact one has to give one year's notice. If the Americans want to change the Auto Pact they give us notice of one year and then in one year the Auto Pact is terminated, or we negotiate in between. If either one of the parties to this agreement discovers that it is not to their advantage or was not what they thought it should be—and I do not think this will happen—they can give six month's notice and force a renegotiation or bring the agreement to an end.

All I am suggesting is that the opposition Parties give this a chance. If they are not prepared to give it two or three years, a reasonable period of time, they should give it at least a year. They should not try to break the confidence of Canadians and themselves in any opportunities that a Free Trade Agreement will present to Canadians. They should do their best to help us realize and to help Canadians realize the opportunities there are in this agreement. Surely, they have to admit that there are some opportunities presented by this agreement. Surely, they cannot believe that just about the whole business community of the country is so stupid that members of it are supporting something that will not give them an opportunity at all to advance the interests of their own companies.

**Mr. Tobin:** Fifty per cent of them are American now anyway.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Who is American? I did not realize that John Bulloch was an American. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business, headed by John Bulloch, supported the agreement with great strength. Sixty-seven per cent of their members said that the agreement would be of benefit to the small businessmen and women of Canada.

• (1240)

**An Hon. Member:** Where is your Member for Hull—Aylmer? On vacation today? Where is he? In the sun? Florida?

**An Hon. Member:** If you only worked one-tenth as hard as he does.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Are they suggesting Luigi is not a Canadian?

I would conclude by saying that this has been a long siege. I did not realize, when the Prime Minister asked me to become the Trade Minister at the end of March,