

will allow us to shape a stronger economic future. Madam Speaker, Wetaskiwin supports Bill C-2.

[*Translation*]

Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Progressive Conservative team with which I am anxious to work towards making our native land a strong and united Canada.

• (1810)

[*English*]

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the eve of this trade deal becoming law. It is now cast in stone. It has been made evident to us that no amendments will be permitted and that no amendments can be debated.

In spite of my tremendous misgivings about this deal, all of us in this Chamber and all Canadians hope that it will work. We hope that the expectations of those supporting it are met, and we hope that their promises to Canadians about this deal are kept.

We remind the Government of what its promises concerning this deal have been: More jobs, better jobs, secure access to the American market, greater prosperity for all Canadians, security for our social programs including medicare, unemployment insurance, health care, and pensions.

The Government promised an adjustment and retraining program. It has promised us that our programs to create regional economic opportunities in Canada will be protected. It has said that we will maintain our ability to preserve and promote Canadian culture. The Government has indicated that we will be able to create new social programs, such as child care and maternity leave.

Canadians are watching. Canadians will not let the Government forget its promises. They will keep these promises tacked to their refrigerator doors.

Because further negotiations are continuing with the United States concerning the implementation of this deal, it is important that the Government does its homework. It is important that it does its homework much better than it has in the past.

For example, the Americans have already created this long list of what they consider to be Canadian trade practices that they find offensive under the terms of the deal. Where is our list? We have undertaken with the Americans to review their laws and our laws in terms of

trade to see if they might be harmonized. I hope we bargain astutely.

There is also the important definition of subsidies. We implore the Government to do its homework. We do not want these issues negotiated as if they are just the closing of one more Canadian branch plant.

According to this deal, I think Canadians will find themselves in a different type of business world. First, American firms are given national treatment here in Canada. They must be treated the same as Canadian firms. We can no longer require that subsidiaries here in Canada produce jobs, hire Canadians, create exports or do research and development here. We can no longer require productivity gains that come from procedures such as world product mandating.

What will happen to our plants here in Canada? Already we have more foreign ownership of our industries in Canada than in any other developed country in the world. Under this deal we will see further rationalization of branch plants on a North American basis, such as with Gillette, Catelli, and Northern Telecom, where the plants move out of Canada. We will see them being phased out in Canada because the bigger plants in the United States can simply put on a few extra runs, a few extra shifts and service the entire Canadian market.

An even greater concern is where new plants will be established in order to take advantage of this new North American market. Let us pretend that we are rational business people and the board of directors of a company that is called upon to make this type of decision. Let us consider the advantages that the United States has as a base for these new plants.

First, the U.S. climate is more amenable and construction costs are less. Second, establishing in the United States means being closer to the biggest part of the North American market. Third, wages in the United States, in many cases, are much lower than here in Canada. In nine U.S. States the minimum wage law is \$3 or less per hour and 12 states have absolutely no minimum wage laws.

In addition, if we establish in the United States, we have the advantage of a free trade zone with Mexico, the so-called Maquiladora Region. It is a band three kilometres to four kilometres deep that runs along the entire border inside Mexico. Goods produced in that area come into the United States totally duty-free. The wages paid in that Maquiladora zone are less than 80 cents U.S. an hour.