

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Minister a liar, or any Member in this House, any Conservative Member, is unparliamentary. I withdraw the fact that I called the Prime Minister of Canada a liar.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I am sure that the Hon. Member knows that this rule applies not only to a member of the Government but to any Member of the House.

The Chair recognizes the Hon. Member for South West Nova on debate.

Mr. Gerald Comeau (South West Nova): Madam Speaker—

Mr. Crosbie: Back to your rat hole now.

Mr. Rossi: Go back to your cheese.

Mr. Nunziata: Go back to law school, John, and try to pass this time.

Mr. Robichaud: Go read the agreement, John.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for South West Nova (Mr. Comeau) has the floor.

Mr. Comeau: Madam Speaker, I appreciate the lateness of the hour and the emotion with which some Hon. Members approach this subject. I also appreciate the opportunity to add my few words to the debate. First, I would like to say that Atlantic Canadians have been waiting for more than 100 years for this very significant achievement. Free trade offers the hope that we can return to the once great prosperity that we had in Atlantic Canada.

● (2100)

In the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries Atlantic Canada was a prosperous nation. There was a freer flow of goods based on natural north-south trading patterns. Our ancestors were building a nation and they had confidence in themselves, their ability to compete, and in their future. They were exporting lumber, fur, agricultural products, fish, and coal, among others.

In those days there were no socialist reactionaries to hold back the progress of our nation such as we have today with the NDP socialists and their socialized Liberal partners. Socialists believe that we can solve all the problems of the world by throwing taxpayers' dollars at the problems. Socialists believe that when one runs out of money one simply prints more. Socialists wanted to choke off investment from coming to Canada, and now want to shut off our market access to the United States. They give the weak excuse that one cannot have a mouse sleeping with an elephant. Well, they are the mice, and they are afraid of their own shadows. They are a bunch of wimps.

We have not heard business state that it is afraid of the free trade. On the contrary, those who shout the loudest against free trade are the big union leaders and the academics who do not make business and investment decisions. On this subject, who is the judge that you would like to listen to, Madam

Speaker—NDP Shirley Carr or John Bulloch who represents 80,000 independent small businesses across Canada?

The other day a constituent of mine gave me a good reason for supporting the free trade agreement. She stated: "If the big union leadership is against it and small business is for it, then it must be good". I agree with her.

According to the socialists, free trade will cause pollution, it will affect the environment, and it will somehow divert our water. When the socialists are challenged they wrap the Canadian flag tightly around themselves and shout that we will lose our culture, our language, and many other nasty things will happen. For all we know, we may even go bald, or I may lose my accent.

The socialists are afraid that Atlantic Canadians may taste the good life, such as is evident in the riding of the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent). They say to Atlantic Canadians: "If you have prosperity, you might somehow lose your culture, and we cannot have that". There is nothing cultural about not having a job. Quite the contrary. Free trade will provide jobs in Atlantic Canada. With the dignity of jobs we will be just as cultural as the Member for Oshawa who, incidentally, rarely complains of the billions of dollars which have been invested in his riding.

Can we trust the socialist anti-American rhetoric, treating the Americans as enemies rather than as our friends and closest neighbours and allies? They somehow forget that 2 million direct Canadian jobs are dependent upon continued access to U.S. markets.

To move a little closer to home and the benefits to Atlantic Canada—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): On a point of order, the Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville (Mr. McCurdy).

Mr. McCurdy: In listening to the reading by the Hon. Member, my attention was drawn to *Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms*, Fifth Edition, Citation 309, which states:

(1) It is a rule in both Houses of Parliament that a Member must address the House orally, and not read from a written, previously prepared speech. Bourinot, p. 335.

(2) On April 19, 1886, a resolution was adopted by the House, which reads:

"That the growing practice in the Canadian House of Commons of delivering speeches of great length, having the character of carefully and elaborately prepared written essays, and indulging in voluminous and often irrelevant extracts, is destructive of legitimate and pertinent debate upon public questions, is a waste of valuable time—

Mr. Lewis: Which is what you are doing right now.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Chair has listened with a lot of attention to the Hon. Member reading a rule which, according to the year he was mentioning, seems