

Senator van Roggen is right, all the way from the "Sale of Canada", to imperilling "the very idea of Canada", to the FTA "representing a fundamental change in the direction of the country" stocks savings plans, to fish processing, to harmonization, to undermining the GATT, to fabricated issues like blood and water, the Opposition has taken the low road, it has chosen to distort rather than debate the issues.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition wants to tear up the Free Trade Agreement and the Leader of the NDP wants to tear it down. What do they say they will do instead?

The most recent Liberal proposal was presented by the Opposition Leader to Premier Bourassa during his ill-starred visit to Quebec on August 17. But Premier Bourassa wasn't buying, he continues to support the Free Trade Agreement.

This latest Liberal proposal replaces one announced with much fanfare on June 13 by the member from Winnipeg-Fort Garry. No one was buying that one, either.

The latest plan has five points, three relating to trade, one relating to international monetary policy and one relating to domestic policy. The three trade elements constitute the so-called Liberal alternative to the Free Trade Agreement.

First, there is the GATT, which the Liberals hope to improve, especially the GATT dispute settlement mechanism. So do we. In this regard we and Liberals are in agreement. And Canada has taken a lead role in the working group now seeking to improve dispute settlement under GATT.

But as Peter Bentley, Chairman of Canfor, the B.C.-based forestry firm pointed out:

"We have no assurance when the [current] Uruguay Round of GATT [negotiations] will be completed. It could take years. In the meantime, we could find ourselves in the embarrassing position of all being unemployed and bankrupt if U.S. protectionism prevailed before this event took place."

And, as Premier Bourassa has said:

"[T]here is no contradiction between having multilateral trade and having a Free Trade Treaty with the United States."