

Bretton Woods Agreements Act

● (1750)

[English]

It is called pocket politics. I call it American pocket politics.

The Government of the country made certain commitments when it was in opposition. It made certain commitments when it was seeking the confidence of the Canadian people. I would like to cite for the record those particular commitments so we can be assured that they will not be forgotten and left on the trail of the other broken promises made by the Government.

The Conservative commitment was to respect our international commitments, to increase Canada's official development assistance to .7 per cent of the Gross National Product by 1990, to deliver a greater share of this assistance through non-governmental organizations, to make our foreign aid and development assistance programs more effective, to review foreign policy by seeking input from the Canadian public and to develop stronger trading relations without limiting the access of developing nations.

There is much work to be done to achieve those goals. There is certainly much work to be done if the Canadian Government is serious about its commitment to allowing the less developed nations an opportunity to get out of the economic vice-grip which was been levied upon them by current market conditions on an international scale. That will only happen when the Government throws off the mantle of its inferiority complex which was so aptly illustrated by the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) comments to *Fortune* magazine.

The Prime Minister and the Government do not believe that Canadians can compete on the international market. That was made quite clear by the comments read into the record by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria). The Government is in fact suffering from an inferiority complex and believes that the only way it can establish its superiority or equality is by breaking down the borders and telling the United States of America that there is absolutely no difference between their country and our country. In fact, it believes it can do this not only by opening the doors but by putting us up for sale.

I believe that the Canadian public recognizes the uniqueness of our cultural institutions and our economic input. I also believe that the Canadian public recognizes that the best job creators in the country are products which are made in

Canada for Canadians but which can compete with any nation in the world on the international market.

I do not believe that the results of this Government's initiatives will bear fruit. In fact, I fear the exact opposite. My fears are that when the so-called Investment Canada Bill—a Bill which I would have preferred to be called "Abandon Canada"—comes to fruition, we will see a branch plant mentality in this country like we have not seen since before the work that was done by the Committee for an Independent Canada.

We in the Liberal Party agree and understand that we have committed certain sins for which we paid dearly on September 4. However, we believe that the Canadian people have a basic understanding that our role is not only to prop up ourselves, not only to fill our own bellies, not only to enhance and encourage the Canadian economy, but also to show leadership in the international monetary and economic systems. This kind of leadership is not being shown by a Government that is being led around on a leash by the President of the United States.

Our Party has a history going back not only to the Cancun conference, but to the 1950s and the 1960s. At that time, it was the Liberal Party, over the dead bodies of many Conservatives, that insisted that we had a responsibility to share and share alike with our brothers and sisters across the world. It was the Liberal Party that, when times were tough, continued to send money to Ethiopia, even though certain Members who are now sitting on the government side of the House blamed and criticized the Liberal Party because it was sending money to our starving brothers and sisters across the world. We will protect that heritage and we will not allow the Government to destroy the initiatives and abilities that have shown that the Liberal Party has a chance to make this a better world for Canadians.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I regret that I must interrupt the Hon. Member. Before I call it six o'clock, I would like to remind the Hon. Member that if this Bill is called tomorrow she will have eight minutes remaining, plus the 10-minute question and answer period.

[Translation]

It being 6 p.m., the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. tomorrow morning, pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.