

*Supply***GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**BUSINESS OF SUPPLY**

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 82—CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):

That this House condemns the Government for its inept negotiations of a trade agreement with the United States that undermines Canadian sovereignty and requires excessive and unacceptable concessions by Canada but gains virtually nothing in return, that still fails to provide protection for Canadian industries from restrictive United States trade laws and that caves in to all United States demands in key sectors, especially agriculture, energy, automobiles, financial services and investment while threatening hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs without the Canadian Government's providing any adjustment assistance for Canadian workers.

And the amendment of Mr. Broadbent (p. 10365).

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** On questions or comments, the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon).

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I was particularly struck with the strident and, I must say, quite sincere sounding statements of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) in his appeal to confidence and in his appeal to the sense of moving ahead which the country has experienced in recent years. Of course it is not a sense of confidence which is limited to those who want to tie us more closely to the United States as the answer to our economic problems. It is equally strongly and, perhaps one might say, more strongly felt by those who feel that they would wish the country to do its own directing of its own future.

However, I want to ask specifically whether this lack of confidence, which is supposed to characterize those who oppose free trade, was also what lay behind the statements of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) on June 2, 1983, of course before he was Prime Minister. He said that "opening the floodgates to trade with the United States would endanger Canada's economic and political sovereignty". He went on to say:

I favour making a top priority of re-establishing an excellent and productive relationship with the U.S. That does not, however, include free trade.

I would like to point out as well, quoting again from the same article, that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) made precisely the same point by indicating that he adamantly opposed free trade. He said that freer trade would be very dangerous for the economy because it would hit the industrial heartland of Ontario. "If we create havoc here", he went on to say, "we are going to be paying for it across the country".

How is it that it is possible for Conservatives to express those sentiments out of power and presumably to have confidence in the country, yet when opponents of the trade deal express sentiments of the same character, echoing precisely the same kinds of concerns and commitments to

Canada's independence, that is somehow an indication of lack of confidence in the country?

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I think we have an example again of the NDP living in the past. We have to look at what is going on in the world today and to set our paths and policies in relation to what is happening in the world today.

It is very clear—and I am sure the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon) would be the first to agree with me—that the protectionist pressures in Washington are enormous and far different from what they were back in 1983 or before.

During the same period of time we have also seen some major achievements by the Canadian economy which tell me that we can look with confidence at our ability to compete. At that time in 1983—and the NDP will be able to check the record—Canada was right at the end in most of the records of performance of Group of Seven countries. Since then we have proven ourselves to be number one in growth, number one in employment creation, and number one in productivity improvement.

That combination of factors gives me confidence that we can move ahead and take comfort or draw strength from the achievements we have been able to put behind us during the course of the past few years. We can look forward and see much more opportunity, much more growth, and a much higher standard of living for our people by entering into the agreement.

[Translation]

**Mr. Guilbault (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance what will be the consequences of the free trade agreement with respect to sale prices, and will this benefit Canadian consumers?

[English]

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I think this question is sometimes put aside when we look at the more precise implications of a free trade agreement.

The one person right across the country who benefits from free trade is the consumer. The consumer will get lower prices. The consumer will get a broader variety of products.

**Mr. Lapierre:** If he has a job.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** I hear the Hon. Member opposite. Any of the economic studies which have any relevance to this debate will show that there will be more jobs created as a result of a free trade agreement than without a free trade agreement. There is no reason to expect that there would not be jobs for consumers. If the Hon. Member wants to discuss that with the Premier of the Province of Quebec, a Liberal who shares the same Party background, I think he will find that the views I have expressed are shared by that