

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

The great GATT supporters over there should know that the people in GATT think our binational dispute settlement mechanism is unique and is a model for them to look at very seriously in the negotiations going on now, and they have said that many, many times.

The Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) was quoting Sir John A. Macdonald. He said how disappointed Sir John A. Macdonald would be with this agreement. I enjoy the socialists when they quote the Conservatives frequently. They quote Sir John A. Macdonald and Mr. Diefenbaker. It is quite interesting to hear them. I never hear them stand up and quote Tommy Douglas, David Lewis or any of those people. They are always quoting Conservatives, which is kind of interesting.

Sir John A. Macdonald today, I believe, would be proud of the country that he established back in 1867. He would be proud that Canada has matured and can now take its rightful place in the world economies. He would be proud that Canada can trade bilaterally and internationally without fear, without the need of protection, without those barriers. I listened to the Leader of the New Democratic Party say: "We do not want any barriers", but his trade critic is saying: "Why do you not put the barriers up on textiles? Why do you not put the barriers up on shoes or on garments?" You cannot have it both ways. The New Democrats are going to have to explain these things in the election campaign.

The New Democrats said that with this trade agreement ordinary Canadians do not expect a rosy future. But let me ask them this: If that is the case, how about the ordinary Canadian, Bob White, who is the President of the Canadian Auto Workers and National Vice-President of the New Democratic Party? If he does not think that the future is rosy, can he tell me why the Canadian auto workers are building the biggest, fanciest trading centre in Grand Bend that one has ever seen? And just down the road on their property, they are building a magnificent home for the President of the Canadian Auto Workers. I would imagine it is a vacation home. I do not think it is his permanent home. But they must think the future is going to be bright if they are doing that. The future cannot be all that bad.

We have not heard too much from Mr. White lately because I think he realizes that the Auto Pact has been enhanced by the free trade agreement.

The Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party was talking about creating wealth. He said that the public sector could create wealth. I would agree that the public sector has to set the goals, the rules, and has to develop the atmosphere so that the private sector can perform well and provide meaningful jobs and trade internationally, and so on. But the Leader of the NDP said that both the private and public sectors can create wealth. I have not seen too many public sector organizations create a lot of wealth.

I found the reasoning of the Leader of the New Democratic Party rather interesting. He asked us to look at Japan. He said

Japan would not buy machinery from offshore, it would make it right there. One thing he failed to mention is that Japan has a domestic market of 130 million people. When it builds a plant to produce this machinery, it can build it at economy of scale and what it does not use, it can trade. We do not have the population demand in Canada. With the free trade agreement, however, with those barriers down, we will have a 250 million or 260 million population. A 24-hour truck drive from my riding reaches 60 per cent of the Gross National Product in the United States. Does the Member opposite not think that is an opportunity for Canadians? Of course, it is.

Every business and service organization has said very clearly in its testimony before the committee, and my colleague from Burlington will attest to this, that this is good for Canada. These are the people who make it work. These are the people who take the money out of their pocket, put it down, take the risk and make it work.

I listened to the Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands (Mr. Manly) with interest. He said—and I am paraphrasing a little, but one can find it in *Hansard*—it does not matter what kind of multinational company it is, once it becomes multinational, it is bad, whether it is Canadian or American.

Ms. McDonald: No, no. He said it is big and powerful. He did not say "bad".

Mr. McDermid: That is exactly what he said the other day.

Ms. McDonald: He said "powerful".

Mr. McDermid: In the couple of minutes I have left, I want to talk about being a Canadian. I love this country. I guess I love it more today than I did when I first got into politics—

Ms. McDonald: You love it so much you are giving it away.

Mr. McDermid: —almost 10 years ago. I have had the opportunity of travelling across Canada. One of the advantages of being a Member of Parliament is that one has an opportunity to visit this country in a way in which, unfortunately, most Canadians do not have. I believe in the Canadian people and I believe in their judgment. As I travelled across this country and spoke on the free trade agreement, explaining it to them, one of the things I said, something I mean very sincerely, is that no political Party in this country would ever give Canada away, sell Canada away or trade Canada away.

Ms. McDonald: Except for the Conservative Party.

• (2010)

Mr. McDermid: There is not one political Party that would do that. We have all fought so hard for this country. We have all fought for the betterment of this country. For the opposition Parties to be making these outlandish claims that somehow this Party is selling out Canada that we all love so much, Canada that we all have sacrificed for to come to serve—all of us—is nonsense.