

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Charlebois et Fils in Lachute, Madam Speaker, a company that manufactures doors and windows, does not feel threatened by free trade. In fact, they intend to take advantage of the specific opportunities offered as a result of this agreement.

In Argenteuil we have *La Pépinière*, a company that is involved in greenhouse production, also very dynamic. Madam Speaker, the Durochers invented and are applying new technology for greenhouse production. To them, tariff barriers don't make any sense at all. They stand to benefit from free trade, and I can tell you they are enthusiastic and ready and willing to take on the lucrative U.S. market.

In Mirabel, Madam Speaker, there are any number of companies that are in favour of free trade. There are companies that will not be affected one way or another, and I would like to name Nora, a company that bottles top notch spring water. In fact, the area around Mirabel is well known for the quality of its spring water. Nora, a company that started a business using the latest technology in this area, will simply go on exporting its bottled water to the U.S. market. The same applies to Bell Helicopter, and there are many more, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Cassidy: Madam Speaker, on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), on a point of order.

Mr. Cassidy: Madam Speaker, I don't think we have a quorum. There may be five or six Conservatives who are enthralled by the Hon. Member's speech, but if I am not mistaken, there should be more Members in the House. Would you agree?

[English]

Mr. Crosbie: Let the record show, Madam Speaker, that there is one Liberal and one NDP Member in this House—two Liberals, and they are claiming that there should be further debate. The only people on the other side of the House are three people, two Liberals and one NDP Member, a disgrace.

Mr. Foster: Madam Speaker, I think the record should show that the Minister has not read the Bill. At least the Members on this side of the House have read the Bill.

Mr. Crosbie: If you have, why are you deceiving the public about it?

Mr. Foster: You are the ones who are deceiving the public. Why are you spending \$30 million?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cassidy: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order. Order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: Whatever the Minister of International Trade chooses to call me, I believe it is not parliamentary for him to

accuse another Member of deceiving the public, and I believe that that comment by the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) should be withdrawn.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): We now have a quorum. The Hon. Member for Argenteuil—Papineau (Mrs. Bourgault).

Mrs. Bourgault: Madam Speaker, I am delighted to see that Hon. Members are interested in hearing the names of businesses in Argenteuil—Papineau that favour free trade. And I must say it was worth being interrupted for that reason alone.

Madam Speaker, as you well know, free trade simply means the economic survival of this beautiful country of ours. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity, since Argenteuil—Papineau is a heavily agricultural riding, to reassure my farmers, and I would like to do so by quoting what was said by Professor Guy Debailleul who is with the Department of Rural Economy at Laval University and who analyzed the agreement.

He states that the agreement in its present form appears to be relatively limited in scope as far as Quebec agriculture is concerned. We know, madam Speaker, that aside from the President of UPA, the big agricultural co-operatives—that are, by the way, also members of the UPA, because when one is a member of a federative association or of a co-op, one is also a member of the UPA—thus the two positions are extremely contradictory. In fact, they are conflicting positions, but for farmers what is important is the organization that buys their products, their co-operative. And the big agricultural co-operatives in Quebec have come out in favour of the agreement. In other words, their position is diametrically opposed to that of the President of the UPA, because we have kept our commitments and have complied with their request to include Article 11 of the GATT. That being done, the Minister of Food and Fisheries of the province of Quebec, Mr. Pagé, is also in favour of the agreement.

Madam Speaker, I could go on about this agreement for hours. You are indicating however that I have used almost all of the time allotted to me. I would, for instance, like to mention comparable arrangements elsewhere in the world. We all recall full well that there are examples such as the European economic community, and I have mentioned this each time I have spoken on the issue. It is to be expected, madam Speaker, that the groups that are opposed to free trade agreements are socialists, labour unionists, unfortunately, and all those who are resistant to change generally; if we want to measure up to those who are in the fore front of progress, we have to step boldly into the new era of free trade. I will conclude with a message to consumers, who will be the big winners under free trade. The Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs did a study. We have documents to back up what we are saying, and, for instance, consumers will see an