

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

have attempted to do that. We have something called surface lease agreements that require local content, local hiring, and the use of local businessmen.

What do we see in this deal? We see very specifically in Article 1603 that those things would not be allowed any more. Thus people are very worried about how in fact we are going to enjoy secondary benefits if we do not have the tools to ensure that that happens.

Then there is the threat to our regional development programs. We have been told that they are not threatened. However, just last August the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion announced the closing of the DRIE offices in La Ronge and in Prince Albert in my constituency. When I checked out why that was happening, Western Diversification Fund officials in Saskatoon suggested that they were bringing their programs into line with the free trade environment. This meant that the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion was abandoning northern Saskatchewan entirely.

• (2200)

Another issue is the protection of the northern ecology. We were told that water would not be affected. This summer people in the North were surprised to read that the Hon. Graham Taylor, Minister of Privatization in the Saskatchewan Government said:

I don't think it is unthinkable that we could bring water from north of La Ronge to the top end of Last Mountain Lake, then use that more than hundred mile gash to bring water southward, and then connect the flow to the Souris River system.

Some may not know the geography of Saskatchewan. Such a scheme would bring the water 16 miles from the American border to fill a reservoir about which the Minister of the Environment of the federal Government would not hold hearings because it is common knowledge there is not enough water in the river system to fill the reservoir. The people of northern Saskatchewan saw that the water would be diverted to the south, 16 miles from the American border and decisively rejected the free trade deal.

It was not only the resource producers in Prince Albert-Churchill River alone who rejected this deal. The free trade deal was rejected by a majority of Canadians living in resource based regions of the country. The Hinterland-Metropolitan dynamic is one of the bases of historic debates in this country. It concerns the interaction of those who control the finances in the cities of this country and those who produce the resources. In an attempt to analyse this dynamic in the context of the election, I measured the resource base as the land

devoted to such things as mining, lumber and agriculture and compared that with the financial resources in the big cities and communities. The comparison is quite shocking.

In the last election, the area represented by Tories who were elected equals 919,509 square miles. The area represented by Liberal and New Democratic Party Members who were elected is 5,188,588 square miles, which works out to 15 per cent for the Conservatives and 85 per cent for the Liberal and New Democratic Parties who oppose the deal. I do not believe there is any better indication that the people in the industrial areas of the country have ganged up against the resource producers.

The stewards of our resources representing 85 per cent of this land said no to this sell-out. They said yes to developing our resources the Canadian way.

The phrase that will dominate the debate in the months and years to come will be "the six-month clause", which is no relation to Santa Claus, for the benefit of Members opposite. That is how we will get out of this deal.

While the Government may not have enough confidence to monitor this deal, it will know that Canadians will be watching. When Canadians see us lose control of our resources, watch our jobs disappear, see our family farms disappear and our distinct way of life vanish, they will band together in a movement like this country has never seen to see this deal disappear and this arrogant Government vanish. This Party and this Member will be front and centre, leading the movement to save the soul of this country.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me the privilege of addressing the House tonight. This is my first speech since the November 21st election, in which people in the great constituency of Abitibi sent me here for a second term.

My first words are to thank people in Abitibi for that support they gave me on November 21st. Abitibi said yes to free trade, and I would like to take this opportunity to speak directly to them of the Agreement as it concerns Abitibi, Quebec and Canada.

The Canada—US Free Trade Agreement, signed by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and President Reagan on January 2, 1988, is an epoch-making achievement, the culmination of the efforts made during this century by Canadians and Americans to establish a