If the recent decision to close certain plants in Ontario and Quebec is a preview of the results of free trade, then Canada's future is in doubt:

Yours truly,
Charlene E. Black, & William K. Jackson

The Minister of non-housing should have the courtesy to listen to the constituents of Parkdale—High Park.

Mr. McDermid: I am listening.

Mr. Flis: He never listens. He has no respect for our constituents.

Here is another letter from Andrew Cullen. Mr. Cullen, from 89 Constance Street, writes:

Dear Mr. Flis:

I want to voice my support for your opposition to the trade pact and I hope that you will do what you can to stop or amend it in the House.

Here is a constituent who realizes that the Conservatives won a majority. What is he asking through me? He is asking that they accept amendments.

The Liberal Party through our critic, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg South Centre, has presented excellent amendments on behalf of our Party. We would like to see an amendment that would provide a permanent review by parliamentary committee. What is wrong with that, Madam Chairman? You would allow it. You are a fair person. The amendment would be like this:

The implementation of this Act shall be reviewed on a permanent basis by such committee of the Senate, of the House of Commons or of both Houses of Parliament as may be designated or established for that purpose.

What is wrong with such an amendment, or an amendment to allow to review and report after three years? We would simply word it as follows:

The committee designated or established for the purpose of subsection (1) shall, within three years after the coming into force of this Act, undertake a comprehensive review of the provisions and operation of this Act, and shall, within a reasonable period thereafter, cause to be laid before each House of Parliament a report thereon.

What is wrong with that amendment, Madam Chairman? We have an amendment about the protection of our environment and health. I know the Tories are not interested in protecting our environment and health. They have no respect for Canada's environment. They have no respect for our health programs. We would word it:

For greater certainty, nothing in this Act or in the Agreement shall restrict the authority of the Government of Canada to protect the Canadian environment and the health of Canadians.

The Tories will not accept that amendment. What about an amendment to protect the cultural industries, worded:

For greater certainty, nothing in this Act or in the Agreement shall limit or restrict the support of the Government of Canada to the development of cultural industries in Canada.

What is wrong with that amendment?

Do you think, Madam Chairman, that the Tories will accept an amendment to protect health care facilities management services? We would word it:

Notwithstanding Article 103 of the Agreement, the federal government shall not compel municipal or provincial governments, through the use of override legislation, to comply with any provisions of the Agreement with respect to health care facilities management services enumerated under the Standard Industrial Classification numbers—

For their information we even list the numbers because the Tories cannot read, Madam Chairman. What about an amendment on adjustment programs? I raised in this House during Question Period the ripple or chain effect this Bill will have on small industries. I gave an example of Hamida Textiles Inc. In canvassing I met a constituent who was selling equipment to restaurants. Another was in the pharmaceutical business, another in the furniture business, and another in the medical supply business. Everyone told me that if this trade deal went through they would go under.

All we are asking is for protection for those small businesses that will go under. What kinds of adjustment programs are there for them? What kinds of retraining programs are there? The Bill does not give any. The Minister gives great promises, but will he deliver on those promises? Can we trust this Government? This is a Government which promised that senior citizen's pensions would not be touched. What happened? The Tories tried to touch them, but we would not let them.

We heard a lot of debate about the social programs. If they are not going to be touched as the Tories say, why not allow us an amendment such as this one:

For greater certainty, nothing in this Act or in the Agreement shall be interpreted so as to affect the continuation of existing or the establishment of new Canadian social programs, including the health care system, unemployment insurance, child care, pensions, minimum wage law, labour law and maternity benefits.

These are all programs which the Liberal Governments brought in over the years and which the Tories want to give away. I am very honoured to return to this House at the same time as the Hon. Members for Nunatsiaq and for Western Arctic.