

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

to protecting the consumer. In fact, it has been one of the most important principles guiding the Government's reform of the financial sector ever since it first came out with its Green Paper in the spring of 1985. Indeed, on the very first page of that discussion document the Government committed itself to 9 principles designed to better serve the public interest in the regulation of financial institutions in Canada.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** It is with deep regret that I must interrupt the Hon. Member.

The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business is now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 36(2), the Order is dropped to the bottom of the list of the order of precedence on the *Order Paper*.

• (1800)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT****MEASURE TO ENACT**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Crosbie that Bill C-130, an Act to implement the free trade agreement between Canada and the United States of America, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee; and the amendments of Mr. Axworthy (p. 16661) and of Mr. Young (p. 17089).

**Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, I rise to speak to this Bill before us. This is probably one of the most important debates which has taken place in this country in many a decade, as other speakers have said. There is great concern that we do not have an in depth understanding of what this Bill means. This Bill amends over 27 of our statutes. We seem to be just putting it through in five days and not worrying too much about it. I think it is incumbent upon the Government to ensure that the committee travels in order to hear witnesses across the country. It is very important that that happen.

We first became suspicious of what was happening when we learned that the trade agreement was going to go on the American fast track and had to be ready by October. It was then delayed until January. A committee of the House travelled across the country to hear witnesses without even having the text of the agreement. When such a thing is pushed at you, you immediately become suspicious and realize that it is time to take a good look at it.

Many Canadians organized themselves very quickly in an effort to have a look at it. Most of them came from national institutions including the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Canadian Auto Workers' Union, the Confederation of Canadian Unions, the National Action Committee

on the Status of Women, many churches and social agencies, the native peoples' organization, and immigrant women's groups. These groups studied the agreement and have maintained their opposition to it.

It is important to look at the facts. I have heard people saying that it is going to create jobs, others saying that it is not going to create jobs, and some saying that we have an inferiority complex which makes us afraid to enter into the agreement. We must look at the reality.

The Finance Department released a study in January which indicated that rather than the 8 per cent to 10 per cent growth in the economy which it expected, there will probably be a 2.5 per cent growth, not annually, but for all time. The Economic Council promised us 350,000 jobs and that number was trumpeted across the country. We are now told by the Economic Council, after it looked at the service industries and so forth, that the jobs had dwindled to 120,000 over five years, or about 25,000 a year. The economy is now creating about 300,000 jobs a year and we are talking about 25,000 jobs. Are we willing to sell our heritage for that number of jobs, which is exactly what we are doing?

I heard the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. McDougall) speak this afternoon about the fact that the Canadian Jobs Strategy had the ability to do the training so necessary in a restructured economy. I was on the employment committee when it studied the Canadian Jobs Strategy. We heard from people right across the country. Government Members recommended a massive input of money into the Canadian Jobs Strategy if it is to deal with the restructured economy with which we are faced.

It is all very well for people to say that women will do well by it, but the reality is that women in the textile and garment industries cannot get training now to give them portable skills or language skills to enter into other areas of the economy. We are actually dealing these people out of our society for the long term future. That is grossly unfair.

We must also recognize the fact that the service industry employs many women. We know that jobs will be lost in the service industry and in data processing. That has been well documented by the study done by the Canadian Computer Association. It recognizes that it will lose jobs to south of the border.

We also hear about the great possibilities for foreign investment, that American money will flow into Canada and will be a great stimulus. We must recognize that from 1978 to 1985 Canadian owned companies created 876,000 jobs. U.S. investment in this country created 1,400 jobs and other foreign investment created 12,000 jobs. That certainly proves without a doubt that Canadian investment in Canadian plants is certainly a much greater job creator.

Apart from all that, we must deal with the allegation that we have no confidence in ourselves. When we consider the way the economy has been growing, and the fact that we have been