

*Free Trade*

down, move out and leave Canadian workers to pick up the pieces of their lives and to pick up the pieces of their communities. That should not be done in future. It is an approach which we could take in concert with some other things which would be very important for the average person.

It is also important that we recognize that most subsidiaries which exist here have export restrictions. Subsidiaries cannot, for instance, export in competition against their American parent companies in the United States. I think we must have laws which prevent that.

In addition, the alternatives that we as a Party would set forth would include a fifth point, an emphasis on small businesses within Canada which at this stage do not in many cases have the capacity to reach into the export markets. Some manage to reach into the United States, but it is very rare for small companies to develop the expertise and the contacts to reach into other countries throughout the world. It is crucial that we provide much more help for these small businesses. They should get assistance through the Export Development Corporation which to this point has given most of its help to the large scale corporate sector in Canada. We could provide assistance through direct efforts on the part of the various Ministries of Government. The Ministry of External Affairs with its trade and commerce section would be able to help with marketing and the developing of marketing contacts throughout the world for those small firms. If we were to do that, there would be a tremendous potential for small-scale firms to produce thousands of jobs in the future for our young people.

• (1140)

Finally, I think it is crucial to talk about equitable regional development. I come from a part of the country which has suffered from the ups and downs of the auto industry. It is a part of the country which feels, as a result of these cycles, its sense of disadvantage within this country. However, that sense of disadvantage is much less than the sense of disadvantage I have heard expressed by people from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, parts of British Columbia, parts of northern Alberta and parts of northern Ontario. They have said that we must establish fairness on a regional basis as a crucial priority of our economic policy.

It is precisely that sense of regional fairness which we will not establish through the trade agreement. We only need look at the situation in places like northern Vermont, northern Maine, North Dakota and Montana. Rather than being part of an equitable pattern of development across the United States, those parts of that country have themselves become disadvantaged regions.

We face the certainty that there will be more disadvantaged regions and that their disadvantages will be greater than is presently the case if we go forward with this deal. Our hands will be so tied when it comes to the instruments we could use to build a fair and equitable situation for those parts of Canada.

There are ways to build that fairness. As our action group on jobs found when it went across the country in 1985, there is a whole set of ways in which communities can build on their own strengths. They can do so through community development efforts and through assistance to co-operatives. What is crucial is that they can do so under their own direction, not under the direction of Chicago, Washington or New York.

In addition to those ways in which communities can build on their own strengths, we must have as a responsibility the goal of seeing to it that the resource areas of Canada are given an equal share in this Canada of ours. We must see to it that the fish processors of Newfoundland have an equal chance at prosperity and benefits for their children. We must do the same for those in the logging industry and those who work in the sawmills in British Columbia. We must see that equality of possibility is established for people in northern Alberta just as we must do so for the people in the Eastern Townships of Quebec which have been so hard hit by the problems the textile industry has faced.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, it is necessary to have genuine equality in all sectors of this country. It is necessary to have a real Canada which offers all people in this country an opportunity to enjoy a good and prosperous life, the kind of prosperity with which people in Toronto and Montreal are familiar. That is necessary and it can be done. There is no need to say it is impossible. There was an option before, as we indicated during the election campaign. As we said, there was an option and we have to find that option. It is an option of planning. It is an option of leadership on the part of the Government. It is an option of regional equality, and for this country it is very important that it be found.

*[English]*

So this historic debate begins and will continue for the months ahead. There are those who are frightened of being on their own in the world, those who want to see themselves sheltered by the protective umbrella of the United States. Those are on one side of this debate. They are the ones who cannot hack it as Canadians. They feel that they must be part of a continental grand scheme which will give them some sort of protection from the American giant.

On the other side of the debate are those of us who believe in the people of Canada. We believe that we can work to establish a socially fair, democratic country which will give to every person the chance to enjoy the tremendous benefits which Canada has to offer.

Our Party has confidence in our people. Our Party has confidence in their ability to make Canada reach full employment, to make Canada achieve fairness throughout, to make Canada establish its place in the world on its own in co-operation with all countries of the world, not as the dependent junior partner of the United States. That is what we believe this country can do. That is the faith we have in this country.