

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Mr. McDermid: The Hon. Member sat in committee, as I did. He was a very faithful attendee. He heard testimony from small and medium-sized and large business groups. He heard from service industries which are actively involved. He heard from groups which will be the most affected by the free trade agreement. With very, very few exceptions—and the exemptions, we found out, were a fringe group of perhaps three or four members—they supported the free trade agreement. Did any of that testimony not sink in to the Hon. Member?

Mr. Manly: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked a number of questions and made a number of comments. I would like to begin by replying to his comment about the southern United States. Certainly, it has been the experience of British Columbia where we have the large firm MacMillan Bloedel, which is now, of course, owned by its own multinational—

Mr. McDermid: Is it Canadian or American?

Mr. Manly: In the long run, it does not matter that much once one reaches that level. I think J. V. Klein, former head of MacMillan Bloedel, pointed out that capital did not have any kind of nationalism, that it was free to move across borders. That is exactly what it did. It took the profits that were earned by the people of British Columbia, with the resources of British Columbia, and moved down to Alabama. Other companies moved down to Georgia and so on, and they invested down there. We went through a very, very difficult time. Our forest industry is still going through a very difficult time because too many of those companies have a cut and cut out attitude with respect to our resources and because we have a Government that is stupid enough to let them get away with it.

• (2150)

As for the fact that the Governments down there are bankrupt, well, that is an inevitable tendency when there are Governments that take almost exactly the same attitude as this Government takes. That is to say: "We are open for business. We want to make a deal. We will make a deal. It does not matter what the price is". That price may be paid 20 years down the line. Down in Louisiana 20 or 30 years ago there were probably some politicians who thought at that time that they were pretty smart because of the deals they were able to make with some of these corporations. They have since found out that they were not getting anything in return. It was give, give, while the corporations could only take, take, take. That is exactly the attitude of this Government.

Mr. McDermid: Give us an example.

Mr. Manly: The Hon. Member wants to point to the fact that the Canadian Government has been stable in the last number of years, that we have an educated workforce, and that we have resources. These are certainly reasons why people will want to come and invest in Canada. However, the point is that once we enter into this trade agreement and we no longer have the kind of sovereign power to manage our own resources—

Mr. McDermid: Show me in the agreement where it is taken away.

Mr. Manly: We say that Americans will have national treatment when it comes to ownership of banks. They can come in here and purchase our companies. We cannot have preferential pricing any longer. All that sort of thing takes away our right to manage our own economy. When we lose those rights, we lose the rights to protect the interests of Canadians.

Mr. McDermid: That is not true.

Mr. Manly: Of course it is true. It is right here in the trade agreement. The Hon. Member knows that it is in the trade agreement.

Mr. McDermid: I do not know it is in there because it is not there.

Mr. Manly: We favour Crown corporations as opposed to multinationals. Certainly multinational corporations make some very important contributions to our world. I do not deny that. What I am trying to say, and what is important for the Hon. Member and everyone in Canada and in the world to recognize, is that multinationals are developing a power unto themselves, a power which is not subject to the sovereign control of the people.

What I am trying to emphasize is that after a period of several hundred years in which the people of our world—particularly the people that make up the bulk of the Canadian population—have struggled for popular control of their nations, they now find that getting control of their nations does not mean that much because effective control is being sapped from within by the power of multinational corporations which are not answerable to the people. If we are talking about Crown corporations, what we have to do is ensure that they are answerable. Certainly, members of my Party do not dispute the fact that too many Crown corporations have not been answerable to the people of Canada. There is no question about that.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The time allotted for questions and comments has now expired.

The Chair has been looking at the amendment to the amendment presented by the Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands. The Chair has some serious reservations about the relevancy of the amendment to the amendment already before the House. I would like to reserve my decision on this amendment until tomorrow and allow debate to continue at this time.

Mr. Boudria: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is now 9.55 p.m. Of course I do not know which Hon. Member the Chair now intends to recognize. However, may I make a suggestion which would perhaps be agreeable to all Hon. Members of the House? It is that instead of having a five-minute speech now, which no doubt would not be satisfactory