

Government Orders

than they were. The cost of air travel has increased and the competition is almost non-existent.

That great airline, Air Canada, one of the great symbols of this nation, is another example of what this government is up to. It seems to be destroying the icons, the symbols of this nation. It has certainly done that with Air Canada. It has demonstrated that it cannot be trusted.

Free trade was introduced in the same manner. We were told that this was going to open markets for us and increase jobs. Canadian workers, of which I was one, were threatened in the last election that unless we voted in favour Canada would go down the tubes because we would not be able to be competitive.

The government said that it would take care of any Canadian workers who were displaced because of free trade. Once the bill passed this House, a day that will live in infamy in this country, in my memory certainly, what did we have? A special committee, set up to come forth with ideas to protect the Canadian workers, stated that it would not be that easy to keep track of who is displaced because of free trade, but that there were wonderful schemes in place anyway to take care of those people so it would not really be necessary. They emphasized that you cannot keep track of it.

Within the last couple of weeks there was a report stating that it was possible to keep track of the jobs displaced and what free trade was doing. We have reports from Canadian Tire that it was to boost its spending from \$94 million to \$160 million. The government claims from its own report, according to a newspaper item, that Domtar was increasing its facilities and going to create 130 jobs and that George Weston was spending \$47 million with the implication that it was going to create untold numbers of jobs. The list goes on and on. Boeing of Canada was to spend \$274 million according to this report of the government as a result of a study which said it could not be done. The claim was that free trade was good and this was the proof, in spite of the fact that it said it was not possible to calculate. It has all these jobs listed to show that free trade was indeed good.

I suspect that in the whole report there was only bad news and worse news. The very companies which the Conservatives claimed to be the flagship of their proof

that free trade was going to be beneficial for Canada, the same companies here such as Domtar may have created 130 jobs but they were also going to eliminate 77. George Weston was to spend \$47 million but it is to let 360 people go. Campbell Soup is spending a tremendous amount of money but closing down its plant in Portage La Prairie, losing 168 jobs. It goes on and on.

The bottom line is that the government claims 4,000 jobs created with 2,000 spin-off jobs. If you count the number of jobs which were lost by those very same companies we have seen held up as the best example of the corporate elite doing the best they can for this country, they are going to be letting 6,400 people go. You can add the spin-off jobs that are going to be lost because of that. You cannot trust this government on anything it comes up with. Its very own examples show it to be the incompetent government bunch that the opposition said it was during the last election and previously as well.

During the election campaign we were told that the social programs were sacred trusts that would not be touched. The Conservatives said unemployment insurance was something that would be untouched. We had the Prime Minister's assurance on it. Today we see Bill C-21 gutting the unemployment insurance scheme, after having said that it would not happen. This government cannot be trusted. If we go back to the original sacred trust, the example of the senior citizens' pensions, if it was not for a tremendous amount of effort by the seniors in this country deindexing would have devastated them and their ability to survive even as poorly as many of them do now. It would have been even that much worse.

In spite of promises this government simply cannot be trusted. Now we have a threat to the Canadian seniors pensions again through the clawback provision. All this government does is cut, cut, cut. It has no more imagination than to cut programs. Why does it start with the social programs in this country? It goes back to free trade again.

• (1550)

Speaking of free trade, just yesterday we had some workers here on the Hill. Outboard Marine Corporation are the makers of Johnson and Evinrude outboard motors. They told their 300 employees—that is all that is left now—that because of free trade they could no longer afford to operate in Canada and that their plant