

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

I might remind the House that 1.3 million jobs have been created in the last four years. If you listen to Question Period you would think there was not a job left in Canada. The Opposition get up in every Question Period trying to find some place in the country where they can allege a job has been lost as a result of free trade or whatever. They never once mention during the election campaign the economic policies and conduct of the Government. That was never the subject of debate. It was never the subject of criticism by the Leader of the Opposition or by the Leader of the New Democratic Party. They could not criticize the Government's economic record because the Government's economic record was so strong.

• (1230)

Some 738,000 more women are working in Canada in 1988 than were working in Canada in 1984. The youth unemployment rate has been reduced tremendously. It had gone up and increased under the Liberals, despite Senator Hébert's ploy that the media was taken with, lying down outside the Senate Chamber going to starve himself because our youth policies were not satisfactory. What was he doing when youth unemployment went up by 170-odd thousand under Mr. Trudeau? He was in the Parliamentary Restaurant quaffing champagne and eating pâté de foie gras.

When the youth unemployment rate was being reduced severely he was demonstrating outside the Chamber, with the help of the media. Members of the media would come along every day to have a look to say: "Are his eyelids open or shut? Is he still alive?" One could tell by the tongue flapping, Mr. Speaker, that he was still alive.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): We still must have a little respect for the other place.

Mr. Harvard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the Minister for International Trade to get a grip on himself. He has now again attacked someone who cannot defend himself, someone who is not in the House, the Hon. Senator Hébert. What we are getting—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): That is not a point of order. The Hon. Minister for International Trade has the floor.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the hon. gentleman who was just up on an interjection, a new Member to the House, introduced some new language

into the House last night. He has the gall to get up to lecture me about what I should be saying or not be saying in the House. He had better watch himself first, that hon. gentleman. We heard what he thinks is clever language in the House here last night. It did not go over very well then. I suggest to him that he should wait until his Hon. Leader here, the trade critic, gives him the signal before he jumps up and makes an a-s-s of himself again, Mr. Speaker.

I am trying to come to the end of my remarks here.

Mr. Harvard: Please do.

Mr. Crosbie: What I want to suggest—

Mr. Caccia: That is unparliamentary language.

Mr. Crosbie: Who is that croaking up now? That is the hon. gentleman who supports his Leader so avidly. He is such a faithful follower of the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition had to move him into the front row because he could not have him behind his back any longer.

Mr. McCurdy: You are a model of statesmanship.

Mr. Crosbie: I want to speak for a moment on the question—

Mr. Tobin: The only Party whose leadership you have not run for is the NDP. You had better watch yourself. Ed Broadbent has a fellow watching you full time in case you abandon your pinstripes for denim.

Mr. Crosbie: Any Party that I ran for the leadership of would be vastly improved if I made it, that is for sure.

Let me just come to the question of adjustment about which we have heard so much. I want to remind the House once again to get this issue into perspective. Let us take some respected economic forecasting agencies, in this case the Economic Council of Canada, which is as good as any of them can be, and look at what it forecasts for the next 10 years. Remember that the Free Trade Agreement is being introduced over a 10-year period. There is a 10-year period of adjustment for the Free Trade Agreement. Just look at the dimensions of the problem of adjustment as its forecasts show.

The Economic Council of Canada estimates that 439,000 jobs would be created over that 10-year period as a direct result of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement. It might be right and it might be wrong. It might be off by tens of thousands, or it might not. It estimates that 107,000 jobs would be lost during that