

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

which B.C. wants access to in order to sell energy to the California market. That is covered in Article 905.2.

Article 907 deals with Canadian uranium and electricity exports. It has been said that we cannot sell energy to the U.S. at a higher price than what it is sold for in Canada. That is just not so. Article 908 says that Canada's long-term obligations under an international agreement are still in effect in times of supply shortages. That agreement was signed with the former Government some 10 or 12 years ago.

We have many times been accused of selling out our water. Yet we know water was spelled out very clearly in the agreement. The agreement says nothing it contains, except Article 401, applies to water. It goes on to explain that water means natural surface and ground water, in liquid, gaseous or solid state, but does not include water packaged or as a beverage or in tanks. Yet the opposition Members neglected to tell the people that these things were in the Bill.

What has been said about the agreement after the election? In a series of interviews on November 23, the Leader of the NDP said various things. He was quoted in *The Globe and Mail* as saying the Canadian people have taken a decision and the Prime Minister certainly has the right to continue with passage of free trade. At another point he said it would be churlish and inappropriate to say something should be done about the law at this stage. All the chances for amendments that could possibly have been taken have been exhausted.

Ms. Copps: Who said that?

Mr. Belsher: That was the Leader of the NDP. In *La Presse* on that same day he said in our parliamentary tradition, the Canadian people made a decision and the Prime Minister now has the right and mandate to pass the free trade Bill. Later on he said the Prime Minister has been given a clear mandate. The agreement, with all of its faults, faults by NDP standards, has been approved by the people. It would not be appropriate to oppose it now. He indicated it was extremely unlikely that his Party would reintroduce amendments to the Bill once Parliament resumes.

So much for what the NDP say. Let us now see what the Right Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition said on the same day. In the *Ottawa Citizen* he was quoted as saying that the people decided they want the deal. He said the people are always right. In the *Montreal Gazette* he is quoted as saying they would be restating their position on the matter but they let the people

decide and the people have decided. Having stated their case they would let matters proceed. What happened between November 23 and today?

The Tourism Industry Association of Canada ran an ad which said that tourism and free trade feed each other. That association, representing over one million Canadians directly or indirectly employed in the industry, believes it is important for all Canadians to understand that tourism is a \$21 billion industry, second only to the auto sector in foreign revenues earned.

It generates roughly \$9 billion in taxes and is growing more than twice as fast as any other major industry. Tourism means jobs for one in ten Canadians; one in four for Canadians under 25. Some 20 per cent of our tourism revenues come from visitors beyond our border. The association urges all associated with the industry to consider the many economic benefits that will flow from the Free Trade Agreement to ourselves and to all our different enterprises and to Canada.

Another organization we are well acquainted with in this Chamber is that of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. They talked about their wish list for Christmas with the new Government. The results of more than 17,000 personal member interviews showed strong small business support for free trade. Six small and medium-sized firms out of every seven said the agreement will have a positive effect on their business. The importance of free trade to the over-all health of the small business community cannot be ignored.

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They go on to say that small business is vital to the growth of the Canadian economy. Companies with less than 20 employees were responsible for some 85 per cent of the job creation between 1978 and 1986. The over-all health of small business will likely reflect the over-all health of the Canadian economy.

Much has been said about the Americans and their ability to make their laws for themselves. People fail to realize that Canada has not given up its ability to make laws, nor have we changed our laws.

The agreement is of economic benefit to Canada. This Government has started upon this road and has followed it through because we feel it will be of benefit to the Canadian economy. With benefits flowing to the Canadian economy, what better assurance is there for the social programs that Canadians enjoy?

History is on our side. We know that through history, when tariffs have been lowered, trade has gone up. With