

And, if the Americans were to suggest at some time over the next five to seven years some distorted approach to the issues, we would say no. It's that simple.

The fourth misrepresentation is what I call the "hijacking of the GATT". The Opposition claims that the Free Trade Agreement undermines the multilateral trading system that is so important for Canada's access to global markets. That's simply not true.

This government has followed a two-track policy in trade negotiations, bilaterally with our largest trading partner the U.S. and multilaterally through the GATT. We have achieved success in our bilateral negotiations with the U.S. and we are hopeful of a successful outcome in the multilateral trade negotiations, though these are far from complete.

GATT Article XXIV specifically provides for Free Trade Agreements between member countries. The Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement comes within the provisions of GATT Article XXIV.

As the Secretary General of the GATT organization, Arthur Dunkell, has said, the Free Trade Agreement "will in no way hinder" each country's trading obligations with the rest of the world.

And in June, in Toronto, the seven leaders at the Economic Summit, including our largest trading partners in Europe and Asia, "strongly welcomed" the Free Trade Agreement and noted the contribution it should make toward success in the multilateral trade negotiations.

Let me give the last word on the nature of the Opposition's criticisms to a Liberal Senator, George van Roggen, one of the most experienced and knowledgeable individuals on trade matters in Parliament.

"I think if it weren't for the verbal terrorism of the [Free Trade] Opposition frightening people to death, the man in the street would be instinctively in favour of [The Free Trade Agreement]. That's the trouble here, the proponents are stuck with trying to explain a difficult legal trade document while the opponents can sit back and make the most outrageous statement by pushing the right emotional buttons."