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the free choice of the consumer might be undermined by misleading or fraudulent advertising, or that the industry and its employees might be threatened by cheaper imported candles.

But times have changed, and all of these possibilities have since happened in one industry or another. All weakened the power of the consumer to rule the economy; and in every case either the consumer or the industry or the union appealed to the Government for help. In addition, there was a constant public demand for the Government to provide needed services not provided by the private sector. The resulting abundance of government controls, regulatory agencies and Crown corporations necessarily altered the free-market economy, as did the emergence of monopolies and quasi-monopolies in both the private and public sectors.

Every reasonable person now recognizes the duty of the Federal Government to manage the country's economy in the interests of all its people and all its regions. That duty carries with it the consequent responsibility to intervene when necessary to stimulate employment, to redistribute income, to control inflation and pollution, to protect the consumer, to promote conservation, productivity and an adequate supply of the things we need.

But, nonetheless, there remain very large sectors of the economy where the free market and consumer choice continue to flourish. A wide variety of choices are offered by, for example, the retail sales industry, the travel and service industries, the clothing industry, and by many thousands of small contractors and independent manufacturers.

And there is no desire on the part of the Government or the people of Canada to impose more regulation on the truly competitive sectors of the economy -- on the small business sector, for example, where free enterprise is strong, where individual initiative, independence and risk-taking are present, where self-reliant men and women continue to build a better life for themselves and their communities by investing their time, their capital and their abilities in ways that add to the strength of Canada and its people.

The preservation and strengthening of the free-market sector of our economy is absolutely central to the Liberal view of the Canada of the future. That is why we reject socialism, which seeks ever greater government ownership and control of the production and marketing of goods; and that is also why we reject corporatism or statism, which seeks to have all important economic decisions made by a formal partnership of big business, big labour and big government.

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