

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I'm delighted you could all be here today for the Sault Sainte Marie edition of Marketplace '85. As Minister for International Trade, I must tell you how happy I am that we have such a large and distinguished turnout today. As the Soo's Member of Parliament, all I can say is that it couldn't have happened in a better place!

Actually, I have an interim report on the progress of Marketplace '85, and I can tell you that it has been going like a fish through water -- swimmingly. Our Trade Commissioners have already conducted more than 3,000 interviews -- in Halifax, Montreal and Western Canada -- and one-quarter of them have been with firms that have never exported before. Since our exports bring us income we would not otherwise have, and create jobs for Canadians, the fact that Marketplace '85 is catching on should be very good news for us all.

Here in Northern Ontario, as in our other stops, as well, the turnout of business people has been larger than we had expected. As a result, we have expanded our schedule, to start our one-on-one interviews this morning, instead of after lunch. So that some of you have already been exposed to one or more of the Trade Commissioners who are the real stars of this show.

Since there are 18 Trade Commissioners here today, I can't introduce them all individually. But I can tell you that they have come in from a great many places in the world -- alphabetically, from Abu Dhabi to Zaire, and including countries in the Pacific Rim, South America, Eastern Europe, Western Europe and five major American trade centres. Not to mention Ottawa.

In other words, we've got the world covered for you, right here.

I would like to introduce one of our stars to those of you who don't know him already. He's Clive Carruthers, and he's from the Soo.

Clive has been a Trade Commissioner for 22 years and change. He's been stationed in the South Pacific, Europe, and Central America, and is now on his second posting in the United States. He is Canadian Consul and Trade Commissioner in Detroit.

(ASK HIM TO STAND?)

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