

More open competition with the U.S. has led to economic growth and a dynamic, distinctive Canada. The past four decades of getting closer and closer to Free Trade with the U.S. has made us no less compassionate as a society, no less progressive as a nation, no less Canadian.

The Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement will sustain and strengthen that growth and development.

But history and statistics, the plain facts, aren't of much interest to the Opposition. Their approach is simple - level the charge...sometimes directly, sometimes by innuendo ... that if you are for Free Trade you are selling out Canada's sovereignty.

- Is Brian Peckford a man who would sacrifice his people's future?
- Is John Buchanan a man who would sell out his province or his country?
- Is Frank McKenna a man so narrow of vision that he would not stand fast against a peril to our nationhood?
- Is Robert Bourassa a man willing to deliver the future of Quebec into the hands of a foreign country?
- Are the four Western premiers men who would falter when the good of their province and country hung in the balance?

Are these eight premiers not sincerely seeking the good of their country by choosing to support the Free Trade Agreement? Yes, they are, every one of them.

Yet the Leader of the Opposition travels from one end of this country to the other, and will soon stand again in this House to proclaim that the Free Trade Agreement is the Sale of Canada Act. And the Leader of the New Democratic Party will repeat his charge that the "very idea of Canada" is in peril.

But the issue of Free Trade with the United States is not about who is and who is not a good Canadian. It is not about whether or not to sell out your country. It is not about imperilling the "very idea of Canada". It is about the rules of commercial trade.