

Those of you academics who are skeptical about the value or wisdom of a trade agreement, bear this in mind - it may be more effective in achieving your goals than you are. That's just a word for modesty.

Mr. Chairman, your interest is in the wide range and future of Canada-U.S. relations and I am going to talk about more than trade tonight. I want to begin by establishing the context of how quickly conditions are changing outside North America -- changing in South Africa, in the Soviet Union, in China, elsewhere in Asia, in the European Community, in parts of eastern Europe, apparently among the five presidents of Central America, perhaps even in the Middle East. Some of the changes may not prove durable, but the point is the world is not as it was, even five years ago, so there should be no surprise at changes between and within our two countries.

In particular, for anyone who has been watching, there should be no surprises about changes in Canada. Thirty years ago, this country elected its first Prime Minister of stock other than Anglo-Saxon or French.

Mr. Diefenbaker promptly broke other traditions, by naming the first woman Cabinet Minister, the first Cabinet Minister of Ukrainian-Canadian origin, and by giving Canadian Indians the right to vote. Three years after his election the Quiet Revolution came to Quebec, and not quite a decade later, energy became important enough to Canada to give western provinces a taste of influence in this country. Aujourd'hui nous sommes officiellement bilingues, and we are also multicultural, in both policy and in evident reality. Most significantly, there has been a discernable growth of Canadian confidence. Neither Francophone Canadians nor western Canadians feel inferior any more -- we might still feel badly treated, but the difference is that the reaction now is assertiveness, not acceptance. At the same time, we in Canada have been a part of other profound international changes -- television, with all of the changes it brought, other changes in technology, the reach of women towards equality. Canadians who once looked inward, now reach outward -- and are making their mark in the world -- in business, in the arts, in diplomacy, in science, in sport and in other fields.