

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

Geographical distance, cultural differences, commercial barriers and language must be overcome if we are to penetrate the developing markets of the world.

I will be announcing the establishment of a National Trading Corporation with a special mandate for the growing markets across the Pacific. It will have three functions. First, the development and penetration of world-wide markets for Canada; second, the development and co-ordination of distribution facilities, including shipping and transportation; and third, the provision of specialized resources, including financing and the technical skills in exporting activities. It will be a leader in developing those networks which are so important, particularly in the Pacific. There will be training programs and, hopefully, language skills at our universities, hopefully at the university shared by the Speaker and myself as graduates of a great institution. There will be commercial knowledge required to increase our share of world-wide trade.

In co-operation with the private sector, we will build bridges across the oceans to new economic giants like Japan and China. I am talking about the Indonesias, about the Philippines, and then into Latin America, Brazil, the Argentine and Mexico.

We will open new trade missions, not close them. We will increase our trade support programs and we will increase funding for the Export Development Corporation.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I have had the honour of representing this country from time to time at OECD meetings. I think that we also now have to recognize the growing importance to Canada not only of Atlantic trade but of trade in the Pacific Rim. It is now our second largest export market after the United States. In Europe, the OECD has helped to develop a spirit of the Atlantic. We will promote the creation of a Pacific spirit through a similar organization of Pacific Rim nations which will encourage economic co-operation and the development of greater trade with all the countries of the Pacific Rim.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** No trade policy can be a substitute for a national economic strategy. No trade policy, no trade pact, even with the United States, can replace our own efforts. We cannot depend on others to make us more competitive. We must do that ourselves.

A Government that I lead will invest in people and in education in order to give our younger Canadians the skills that they need today for the jobs of tomorrow. We will invest in research and development to give our industries the tools that they need to compete successfully on world markets.

Our goal, which we will achieve, will be to raise the level of public and private spending on R and D in Canada, from 1.36 per cent of GDP to 2.5 per cent. We will nurture the new industries which are helping us become more self-sufficient.

Some of these programs I have mentioned before. We will establish a national literacy program. There are over one

million adult Canadians who can neither read nor write. There are 4 million more adult Canadians who functionally cannot read or write, in the sense of putting a subject and a verb and a predicate in order and using it for economic purposes.

We will invest in training and retraining programs for those displaced by the new technologies. We will create, as we created in 1984, a national apprenticeship program to improve the school-to-work transition for young people.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** We will provide our industries and our workers with adjustment programs to help them adapt to the changing international trade environment. We will establish a federal-provincial task force to work on the elimination of barriers to trade between provinces, with the goal of creating free trade within our own borders.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** In the coming weeks, I will be announcing further details of our agenda to give Canadians a better choice for their future. Canadians will know clearly before election day what we intend to do in government.

I will tell you this. When we are in government, we will not invent phoney reasons to ignore our commitments. We will not try to rewrite history, as this Government has attempted to do in defending and selling this trade deal, a trade deal which represents a fundamental change in the political and economic direction of this country. It is not an ordinary piece of legislation. It is not just another major piece of legislation. It is the most important and drastically different piece of legislation that I remember in my lifetime and that probably Canada has faced in the 20th century, other than the 1911 election.

So it is not a matter of challenging the Government's ability to govern. It is so fundamentally a change in direction that the Prime Minister must admit that he has no mandate or authority from the Canadian people to sign a comprehensive trade agreement with the United States.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The Prime Minister spent a good deal of his speech in the complimentary endorsements and citations, but I would like him to produce any citations during the last election that gave the Canadian people a warning that we would have this kind of agreement with the United States. Not one. It was not a feature of the Throne Speech of November, 1984. The only idea that we had of where the Prime Minister stood on this vital issue were the words that he spoke when he was replying in debate for the leadership of the Conservative Party in 1983, to his colleague, now the Minister for International Trade, the only leading Minister who, after all, has been consistent on this issue. It was not the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson); he was against free trade. It was not the Minister of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark); he was against free trade. The Prime Minister, when accosted face to face with his now colleague, the Minister for International Trade, had this to say: "Free trade, it affects our sovereignty, and we will have none of it".