

Atlantic fish processing jobs were never threatened and are made more secure by the FTA.

And, the Presidents of the two largest fish processing companies on the East Coast, Vic Young of Fisheries Products International and Gordon Cummings of National Sea Products, have said time and again that the Free Trade Agreement will lead to more, not fewer jobs, in fish processing. Do they know something the Leader of the Opposition doesn't?

Third is what I call the "harmonization hoax". The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the New Democratic Party have charged that we will be compelled to bring social programs into line with those in the U.S. and we'll have to abandon regional development.

They point to more open competition between Canadian and U.S. firms as a cause. But that myth is exploded by the facts I gave earlier on the growth since World War II of social programs and regional development at the same time that trade barriers were being reduced between Canada and the United States.

They point, as well, to the negotiations over the next five to seven years on countervail and anti-dumping. Anti-dumping is about selling goods for less in the other country's market than in your own, so that can't be the problem. They point to countervail.

The nature of countervailing duties... which we use as well as the United States... is to protect a domestic industry from significant harm caused by unfair subsidies given to foreign companies exporting into your market. That means things like direct export subsidies, for example, if Canada paid widget producers 50c for every \$1 widget they exported to the U.S. It's not about Medicare or Childcare or Old Age Pensions or family allowance or any social program. Nor is it about regional development programs of general application.

We want to achieve a clear set of rules for countervail that will prevent the kind of politicized decision-making that we saw in the U.S. on the softwood lumber case. Binding dispute settlement is our main line of defence against those politicized decisions while the rules of countervail are reviewed.