

I am confirmed in my long held belief that our path to success in the export markets is through an evangelistic adherence to the tenets of multi lateral trading rules.

I mentioned earlier my appreciation of the active support provided by the CEA to its members and the exporting community. A good deal of the credit for this vitality belongs with Tom Burns, your president of six years. Tom Burns, in a long and distinguished career in both the public and private sectors, has served the interests of Canada's exporting community in an exemplary way.

Tom, I know I am expressing the sentiments of all present in thanking you for your contributions to Canada's exporting community as President of the CEA and in wishing you the best in the future.

The exporting community will continue to need wise counsel if it is to have an opportunity to survive and thrive in the future. The international trade environment for the 1980s will be highly competitive. It will be characterized by an ever-increasing interdependence of national economies and a more rapid adaptation of new technologies and production techniques.

Looking back however we can see that 1982 was a banner year for Canadian exports. Our current account balance was in the black for the first time since 1973 and Canada increased its share of world trade to 3.7 percent while world trade in general contracted.

We can do even better and the growth of our exports is our surest path toward full employment.

Businessmen can only sell if the arrangements between countries for trade to flow are efficient and realistic.

The challenge to the world is to establish the fiscal framework within which developing countries can afford to buy the goods and services which the industrialized countries can offer.

For that to happen, protectionism must be controlled and bottlenecks must be removed.