

The answer was yes -- but you won't have to go to the U.S. for American goods. They will be available in Canada, and Canadian goods will be available in the United States. That's what free trade is all about.

There will, indeed be benefits for the Canadian consumer.

Andrew Cohen, the Executive Director of the Consumers Association of Canada, says there's something in free trade for all consumers.

According to Cohen: "It's not fair to say it will only benefit big business. Consumers will also benefit from more competition once the barriers to the U.S. market have been eliminated."

William Neal of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association agrees and points out that clothing and food are where the tariffs are highest. "So when they come down there will be more trade and lower prices."

We had said all along that if we couldn't make a good deal -- there would be no deal. We think we've made a good one.

The Vice President of the Ford Motor Co. of Canada, David Rehor, puts it a lot stronger. He says Canada has: "Won, won, won."

Coming from such a source, that statement makes it seem somewhat surprising that the critics of free trade we've been hearing from recently have zeroed in on the auto industry.

It's particularly surprising because the auto pact -- which has helped Ontario prosper -- remains in place, and so do the safeguards.

That was what the Canadian auto workers wanted; what the auto parts industry wanted; and what Ontario wanted.

Manufacturers covered by the pact must still assemble as many cars in Canada as they sell, and there is a percentage formula to ensure the Canadian content of those vehicles.

The penalties for failure to comply with those rules are still in place.