

Commonwealth preference aside. The United States did not consult Canada before it created Silicon Valley. That's the way the world works.

No one is going to look after Canada except Canada. The only way we can look after ourselves - with our immense potential and our small population - is to become highly competitive, and build on those interests we share with others, including particularly our interest in a more open world trading system.

I make this point because there is often a romantic notion that Canada's natural wealth - or ingenuity or character - make us immune to the changes that are transforming the world. In dealing specifically with the question of trade with the United States, there is a temptation for Canadians to believe that we can grow without changing. That is a dangerous illusion, because it stops us from thinking about how we build a strong future of our own.

We all want to build a strong and free Canada, but I recognize there are different points of view on how to do this. Let me address myself for a moment to those nationalists who oppose the idea of closer association with the United States. In the next few months, the Government will be publishing some "options" about the nature of Canada's future trading relationship with the United States. One option, advanced by the previous government and still alive, is sectoral free trade. Another may be a more comprehensive free trade arrangement with safeguards. A third could be pursuit of a set of incremental improvements. Each of these options - and undoubtedly, some others - has advantages and disadvantages for Canada, and these have to be weighed carefully.

The one option we will not propose is the option of doing nothing, because we believe that would be fatal to Canadian prosperity and, thus, fatal to Canadian independence. We depend on exports for close to 25 percent of our Gross National Product. Such a nation cannot stand still in a world that is shaken and shaped by new competitiveness, technology and protectionism. Nor can we turn back to some happier and more isolated time. I remember, dimly, the Grey Cup victory of 1948 - but whatever is wrong with the Stampeders today, it will not be cured by bringing back Fritz Hansen. We have to deal with tomorrow on tomorrow's terms.

Perhaps there is an option that offers a realistic alternative to a closer economic association with the United States. If there is, my colleagues and I genuinely want to hear about it and examine it. In the debate we hope to generate, those Canadians who worry about the United States owe their country more than warnings about what we can't do. They owe us detailed realistic proposals about how Canada could prosper in the future by keeping our distance from our neighbour and our largest trading partner. Every proposal - including those the Government puts