

We the people of Macleod are accustomed to taking risks to pursue our future and build our dreams. It was in May of 1914, in Turner Valley, when the well named "Dingman #1" came in, establishing the first major oil and gas discovery in Alberta. It was the richness of that field which built the foundation of the energy industry in western Canada. In the years that followed, self-reliant, risk-taking Albertans seized their opportunities and the communities of Turner Valley, Black Diamond, Naptha, Hartell, Little Chicago and Little New York grew and prospered. Little New York subsequently became Longview, and I am very proud of that community near which I was raised.

My point is those oil wells were not discovered by people who tried to hide behind protectionism or subsidies. Many of those wells, and much of our oil and gas industry, were built by ordinary Canadians, using money from wherever they could get it. They dared to take the risk and they dared to be successful.

I do not have time to elaborate on the colourful history of ranching in Macleod or on the achievements of dryland and irrigated farming such as is found in the County of Vulcan where wheat is king. However, I would like to pay tribute to some of the artisan talent which flourishes in many communities such as Bragg Creek and Pincher Creek. Many Members of this House have had the pleasure of eating good Alberta beef, or perhaps Glenwood cheese from my riding. The people of Macleod look outward for markets, ideas and challenges. No better example could be cited than the hosting of the Winter Olympic ski events at Nakiska in Kananaskis country last February.

The story of the people of Macleod is a story of people who have made the best of what they were given, who have a strong belief in themselves and their neighbours, who face risks with courage and conviction. It is my greatest aspiration that all Canadians will cherish these values as have our forebears. If all of Canada does that, then the world will be ours. We will eat the Americans for breakfast, and then look up for lunch and dinner.

In my riding more than 80 per cent of the constituents voted for candidates supporting the FTA with the U.S. For the information of the socialists of two stripes opposite, that is a clear majority.

In the future, Canadians will look back on this debate, which has engaged our nation for nearly three years in one form or another, as one of great significance. It has been a watershed. It should remind us all of other great historic times in this Parliament. For example, one of

the most historic steps for us in western Canada was the establishment of the Canadian Pacific Railway. That was a very positive step and this may well be the only time that I as a western Canadian politician will speak favourably of a railway. However, at the time of that great initiative in 1872, Sir George Etienne Cartier said: "All aboard for the West!" Now, in the closing days of 1988, there is a new train waiting ever so patiently in the station. It is the free trade train. It is called "The Spirit of Canada Future", not the "Ghost of Canada Past" as Members opposite would wish it to be.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hughes: That train is getting ready to move forward to the 21st century and a future of new challenges and new prosperity.

I would like to draw to your attention one of the less well known advantages of the Free Trade Agreement. In 10 short days, after it has been passed, a Canadian tariff of 9.5 per cent will be removed from a critical piece of equipment used throughout my riding. That is, a saddle. Yes, a saddle for riding horses. We, the cowboys from Alberta, cowboys from all across Canada, will ride high in our new saddles which will cost us 90 per cent of what they do now. One of the first things we are going to do is round up the Opposition, throw on the saddle, tighten the cinch, and ride them until they figure out for themselves which way the rest of the herd is going.

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As I indicated earlier, more than 80 per cent of the voters in my riding supported candidates favouring free trade. We are on board the free trade train. We are on board the spirit of Canada's future. I know the West is on board. I know Quebec is on board. We say to the rest of Canada, to the Maritimes, to Labrador and Newfoundland, to our friends in Ontario: "All aboard, the train is pulling out".

Mr. Kaplan: Just do not take the night train from Ottawa.

Mr. Hughes: Members opposite can continue to wallow in the slough of despair and backward looking self-pity at the side of the tracks. Or they can get a ticket to the future on the train to prosperity. There is still room for all Canadians before we pull out of the station. All aboard Canada. Look out, America, here come the Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!