

## Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare)

---

**“Together I believe we will forge an agreement which is mutually enriching, what some would call a win-win agreement.”**

When we embarked upon these negotiations a year and a half ago, we set three basic objectives. If Canadians, regardless of political background or regional interest, examined these objectives, I believe they would have to accept them as valid.

First, we wanted to secure our access to the United States market through new rules and procedures limiting the protectionist effect of trade remedy laws. Everyone in the House can rail against the protectionist sentiment now resident in the United States. We know the issues. However, having railed against the sentiment, surely it now behooves all of us to come to the negotiating table to try to remove that sentiment and come to an understanding between the two nations which have the largest trade between them in the world.

We wanted a clearer definition of trade distorting practices so as to reduce the threat of countervail. We also wanted to enhance our access to the United States market through more open entry to United States federal and state government procurement markets and broad trade liberalization. We wanted trade liberalization in an orderly manner through the elimination of tariffs, quotas, and other non-trade barriers over a reasonable period of time.

I think only one who examines those propositions would accept that not only are they timely but they are in the best interests of Canada and in the interest of the trading relationship which exists between our two countries.

We wanted to enshrine our access to the United States market through a strong dispute settlement mechanism which would provide fair, expeditious, and conclusive solutions to differences of view and practice. We know that this must be done. In fact during the debate today a number of Members of the House have so said.

We also wanted institutional and other provisions which would maintain Canadian independence of action in areas of national endeavours. For example, the Minister of Communications (Miss MacDonald) touched upon those issues tonight.

We also wanted a lasting agreement which would enshrine our mutual obligation and accommodate differences in our two governmental systems. Our two governmental systems are different. Our societies are different. That being the case, that is why, despite those differences, we have come together over the years, because of geography