

It will be you--the entrepreneurs, businesses and risk-takers--who will make the agreement work for Canada.

Critics of the agreement have been unable to mount any kind of believable attack on the basis of either economic fact or economic theory. Instead, they have engaged in a pathetic display of fear-mongering, saying that we are selling out the country or giving up our sovereignty.

The fact is that none of the elements, essential to our sovereignty, were on the negotiating table. For instance, our cultural industries are specifically exempted from the agreement.

None of the social programs, regional development programs and other policies, which we consider to be vital to our unique identity and our sovereignty, are subject to the agreement.

Furthermore, if the agreement were such a threat to our social policies and programs, how could we have introduced the national day care program, which has to be one of the most ambitious social programs introduced in this country since Medicare?

So, what exactly are the critics afraid of?

What are they talking about?

Who knows? But I'll tell you what we're talking about.

We're talking about an agreement that will make our economy stronger and more internationally competitive. This, in turn, will make Canada a stronger country, even more confident in its own identity and its unique social and cultural fabric.

This agreement represents a new vision of Canada as a strong, dynamic country which has a leading role to play in the world and the confidence to play it.

It is about jobs and economic growth, now and into the twenty-first century. It is about opportunities for growth for regions of this country which, up to now, have not had their fair share of the wealth generated by our economy.

It is about sovereignty because only an economically strong country can support unique social programs and cultural policies.

Most of all, it is about securing and enhancing access to our largest export market.