

Gerald Regan, who pursued the sectoral trade initiative in Mr. Trudeau's government, has said it won't work. He is actively supporting the Free Trade Agreement.

As well, the industries proposed by John Turner and Ed Broadbent, including steel, forest products, uranium and petrochemicals, are not seeking sectoral agreements. These industries support the Free Trade Agreement because it is real and because they know it will work to their advantage.

As for greater reliance on the GATT to resolve trade issues with the U.S., the Free Trade Agreement has achieved results on an important range of issues that would not be practically possible to achieve under the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The reason is simple. To achieve similar results would require an agreement not between Canada and the U.S., but among the 95 GATT members. The disparity of circumstances and the diversity of interests among these 95 countries limits what can be agreed upon. That is why the Multilateral Trade Negotiations cannot be expected to resolve trade issues with the U.S. anywhere near as comprehensively as the Free Trade Agreement.

While John Turner and Ed Broadbent can say they will set their sights higher in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, that is no more than wishful thinking. Wishful thinking will not improve our bargaining position one iota. What will improve our bargaining position in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations is to put in place the Free Trade Agreement. Then, with major Canada-U.S. issues resolved, we can concentrate our efforts on issues involving Pacific Rim and European trading partners.

It is a pragmatic response to the need to improve our international competitive position by gaining more secure access to the huge U.S. market and to shield the more than two million Canadian jobs that depend on exports to the U.S. from on-going American protectionism.

Canada is a mature, dynamic, confident society. We can compete with the Americans and we can win. When Free Trade becomes a reality, all Canadians will have the opportunity to share directly and indirectly in the benefits.

I thank you for the award. (As you know, I will be donating the money to charity). And I thank you for your support for the Free Trade Agreement.