

Mr. Speaker:

The legislation we are considering today — *An Act to Implement the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization* — will ensure the implementation of the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] Agreement which I signed on behalf of Canada in Marrakech in April.

Adoption of this legislation will enable Canadians to reap the benefits of the biggest trade deal in history. By creating a more open and stable international trading environment, this Agreement will generate increased Canadian exports and investment. Exports, the driving force behind Canada's recent economic recovery, are crucial to the achievement of this government's job and growth agenda and to Canada's continuing prosperity.

The legislation before us approves the Agreement. It amends Canada's existing laws and tariff schedules to bring them into conformity with our obligations under the Agreement. And finally, it provides for the appointment of representatives to the World Trade Organization [WTO] and for the payment of Canada's share of its budget.

We made it clear before assuming office that a Liberal government would continue to support the GATT as the cornerstone of Canada's trade policy. We undertook to focus our efforts on breaking the deadlock in the Uruguay Round negotiations and on building a new World Trade Organization. This legislation is the fruit of those efforts.

The Uruguay Round, the largest, most comprehensive trade negotiation ever undertaken, involved more governments than any of the previous GATT Rounds. The final package contains over 30 agreements, understandings and declarations, capped by the agreement to create the World Trade Organization. The agreements include an enormous package of national commitments to lower tariff and non-tariff barriers to merchandise trade, a thorough reform of trade rules, and the extension of the world trading system to cover such "new" issues as trade in services and intellectual property.

Completion of the Uruguay Round will have major implications for the world and for the Canadian economy well into the next century. Conclusion of the Round, after seven and a half years of difficult negotiations, has already had a positive impact through improved confidence in the global economy.

The GATT Secretariat estimates that global income will be at least US\$ 500 billion higher in the year 2005 than it would have been without the Uruguay Round. Some economists believe that even these numbers may underestimate the impetus to growth, innovation and investment that will result from the Agreement. Economists without exception have underlined the substantial potential benefits for all members of the trading system, including Canada.

Using prudent economic assumptions, we estimate quantifiable Canadian gains of at least a 0.4 per cent increase in real income, or