

As far as the commitment to share energy supplies is concerned, this is nothing new. Both countries have a long-standing commitment to energy-sharing under the International Energy Agency--a commitment, by the way, made by a previous administration.

For the economy of the province as a whole, the Agreement will provide golden opportunities for small to medium-sized businesses in the manufacturing and service sectors. All tariffs will be gradually phased out by January 1, 1998. This will create opportunities to increase processing and the value-added in Saskatchewan's exports to the U.S.--this can mean real growth in Saskatchewan's manufacturing industries such as high-technology, petrochemicals, food processing, electrical and electronic products, wood products and machinery.

Increased exporting of finished products means diversification of this province's resource-based economy. It means greater job-creating investment. It means greater employment for the province's youth in a wider variety of occupations and trades. It means greater demand for local products and services, and greater stability and growth for the economy as a whole.

Free trade does not guarantee all these things. Anyone who would say that might as well be trying to sell you snake oil.

What it does is to create the kind of economic environment in which these things can happen. It is the people of this province, with their legendary spirit of enterprise, who will make it happen.

Critics of the Agreement have been unable to mount any kind of believable attack on the basis of economics. Instead, they have relied on old saws such as "selling out the country" and "giving up our sovereignty".

The fact is that none of our cultural industries were on the table and none are in the Agreement.

Furthermore, none of the social programs, regional development programs and other policies, which Canadians consider to be vital to our unique identity and our sovereignty, are subject to the Agreement.

So, what exactly are they talking about?

Let me tell you what we are talking about. We are talking about an agreement which will make our economy stronger and more internationally competitive. This, in turn, will make Canada a stronger, more independent and sovereign country.