

Opposition in the House of Commons would keep in mind. We are in this together, and what the Provincial Governments have approved let no Member of Parliament put asunder.



So what are we seeking from these negotiations with the Americans? For one thing, we are seeking respite from the protectionist forces that seem to have overwhelmed the U.S. Congress. The fact that the Americans have a roaring trade deficit is beyond our control, and should not affect us -- except that the Americans are making it affect us. The Omnibus Trade Bill is a protectionist nightmare, a dungeon for trade, all but a declaration of war. It is also misconceived. It does not address the real cause of the U.S. trade deficit, the fact that the American dollar has become inflated beyond all reason. It attacks the symptoms of the disease, while ignoring the cause -- the equally massive U.S. budget deficit, a hot potato that no politician wants to pick up.

We need protection from bills like that, just as we need protection from protectionist measures such as the 35% percent tariff just imposed on shakes and shingles made of Canadian cedar, an irrational tariff considering that the U.S. doesn't have enough cedar to go around, and measures such as the countervailing duty investigation against Canadian softwood lumber -- only three years after a similar investigation concluded that our softwood lumber industry trades fairly and without government subsidies.

What we are looking for in these negotiations is protection from these measures of convenience, measures that are taken to protect American industries that are endangered not by Canadian practices but by American policies, or measures that are directed against other producers but sideswipe Canada in the process. What we are looking for, in

short, is secure access to our most important market by far.

But that is not all we are looking for. We would also like to see an all-around lowering of trade barriers, tariff and non-tariff barriers alike, to give Canadian producers a better crack at the U.S. market. This would have two effects. It would give Canadian producers a chance at a market ten times the size of our own. And it would allow them to adjust their production to a mass market, taking advantage of economies of scale and specialization: they could concentrate on products that they produce efficiently and well. So we would like to see as many barriers as possible come down.



Our third concern is the establishment of a workable bilateral system for the settlement of trade disputes. In a business relationship as broad as the one between Canada and the United States, disputes crop up all the time -- some serious, some not. At present, they are resolved -- or inflamed, as the case may be -- on an ad hoc basis, which is hardly a satisfactory situation. With a formal, functioning and workable settlement mechanism, disputes such as the softwood lumber affair would be resolved amicably between friends and business partners.

These are our main goals in the negotiations with the United States. They are possible goals. We have a strong team. We have done our homework. We have the ability to transform our hopes to realities.

And, as the Prime Minister said last night, "This isn't for tomorrow, but for the next decade and the next century. I look at this as a declaration of confidence in ourselves. . . confidence in our ability to assure a more prosperous and secure future for our children and their children.