

into whatever we do in terms of international barriers. Consequently, the Minister of State will be working closely with the Minister for International Trade to ensure that we achieve compatible results in the international and domestic aspects of this question.

The current international trade talks have focused attention on barriers to interprovincial trade. People have, quite rightly, argued that we must put our own house in order if we are to negotiate closer trade ties with other countries. Reducing barriers to interprovincial trade is one way of putting our own house in order, so to speak, as we enter international free trade discussions.

While the connection with international trade talks is important, I do not want to leave the impression that this is the only reason we are pursuing this subject. Quite the contrary. Barriers to interprovincial trade predate the trade talks as an issue and have repeatedly arisen in many other contexts. Such barriers restrain economic growth, raise costs to consumers and hinder the development of competitive Canadian suppliers. We must work to reduce barriers to interprovincial trade come what may on the international free trade talk scene.

In embarking on this consultative process, all provincial Governments have demonstrated a great deal of goodwill. They have recognized that we as Canadians must work together to ensure our mutual prosperity. Discussions have taken place in a cordial and co-operative atmosphere. The provincial Governments are to be commended on the positive approach which they themselves have brought to these discussions.

The federal Government has also been an active participant in these discussions. I intend to continue to participate in support of my Minister on behalf of the talks that are going on. I would urge members of this Chamber to commend the Member for Western Arctic for his beautifully simplistic statement. We must work toward the removing of interprovincial trade barriers and we, as a Government, have pledged to do that.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Darryl L. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I would also like to add a few words to this debate.

I would first like to mention that I am very pleased to have as much as ten minutes of time, and not only three minutes, as was the case earlier.

Mr. Speaker, I shall begin by congratulating my hon. friend for the Bill which he introduced in the House this afternoon. To my mind, it is a very important Bill for the federal Government as well as for the provinces of eastern and western Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I believe also that my hon. friend has put an important question. For several years now we have been talking about Canadians and Quebecers. I am a Quebecer and proud of it, but I am also a Canadian and therefore proud to be a Canadian from Quebec.

Interprovincial Trade

With regard to the Bill which is before us this afternoon, we knew the obstacles beforehand, but we must be aware of the fact that in each province of our beautiful country, whether in the Gaspé Peninsula or elsewhere, jobs are important to us.

Sometimes we tend to say that the Gaspé region is where we want to live and the jobs we want saved are those we have at home. Well, that is what we want, Mr. Speaker, and that is what I am working for.

But we are looking further ahead with a plan of action for our future: that is what we aim to do, and that is why we were elected in 1984. Canadians had had enough of the former Government.

Once again I want to congratulate my colleague for introducing this motion. As I pointed out earlier to the Hon. Member for Dartmouth—Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall) when he said "we are prepared to hold consultations with the provinces", I would suggest that the fact this process is already under way is indeed very significant, Mr. Speaker.

A few examples might be in order. I am sure that the example of the sidewalks conveys a message to us, to our constituents, and to all Canadians. As you may recall, because the paving materials had been bought in a neighbouring province, the municipality had to demolish the sidewalks. Here is another example, Mr. Speaker. The Hay River Dene band was considering setting up a commercial egg producing company, and the only way it could have shown a profit would have been to get access to the egg markets outside the Northwest Territories. However, not being signatory to the first egg marketing agreement reached in 1967, the Territories will not have a quota and the company will be allowed to sell its products only within the Northwest Territories market.

Mr. Speaker, if Canadians, Hay River Denes or others want to market their eggs in Quebec or the Maritime Provinces, as a federal Member, as a Canadian and as a Quebecer I would suggest that they be allowed to sell their products anywhere they want in this country.

Mr. Speaker, there is another aspect to all this. We know that interprovincially the more we buy at home and the freer we are to shop at home or elsewhere, the more buoyant our economy—and it has been a thousand times more buoyant since 1984. The stronger our economy, the more jobs we create on a national, provincial and regional basis.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, each province has its own marketing board. I would not want the federal Government to disturb existing programs.

I am asking this House and this Government, as well as my hon. colleague, to work in co-operation. This is what we want to do; it is our formula for success in Canada.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that, in addition to the economic importance of these proposals, it will be because of Canadian solidarity that our country and we ourselves as citizens will grow stronger. Think of what has