

Message from the Senate

its resources. The Alberta Cattleman's Association and the Alberta Petroleum Association are avid supporters of free trade and the opportunities it will create for Albertans. An expanded and secure resource industry will create permanent service and support sector jobs.

The agreement will build a stronger future for Canada's youth. Long-term growth means existing plants must grow, and new and better facilities must open. The youth of Alberta must have the opportunity to be employed by new as well as traditional industries, or start businesses on their own. New industries will be established as a result of the agreement. Canadian industries will remain in Alberta, no longer having to relocate in the U.S. to avoid protectionist trade barriers.

Of great importance to Alberta youth are the agreement's precedent-setting arrangements regarding trade in the service sector. Alberta is world renowned for its tourist and travel opportunities as witnessed by the success of the Calgary Winter Olympics. With service sector jobs growing faster than any other sector, the agreement will ensure that opportunities abound in this area.

Most analysts agree that the free trade agreement will benefit western Canada, especially Alberta. The Canada West Foundation, a non-profit, western based research institute has done extensive research on the Alberta free trade issue. Their study confirms that free trade is beneficial for western Canada.

The agreement assures secure market access for Canadian energy exports to the U.S. Alberta oil, gas and electricity producers support the enhanced access and security to the American market and easing of National Energy Board export regulations as a positive development for the western Canadian economy.

In talking about energy we might think only of the big companies, but it involves much more than that. It affects the petrochemical industry, research, transportation by truck, rail and air, steel manufacturing, skilled trades, and construction. The service sector will expand. An increased population will result and that creates a demand for education, public services, hospital care, recreation services. All this from an expanding energy sector.

Meat packing, the largest food processing sector in western Canada, will benefit from free trade. Oilseed mills will also benefit from the removal of high U.S. tariffs on processed oilseeds. Projections indicate that the sectors directly benefiting from the agreement account for 33 per cent of Gross Provincial Product. Most important, 75 per cent of Alberta's exports depend upon a secure American market.

Again, the agreement does not and will not adversely affect existing social programs such as medicare, child care, maternity benefits, job training, pay equity, the Canada Pension Plan, pensions for the disabled, and unemployment insurance. Neither does it prevent the introduction of new programs. We must remember that all those programs must be paid for by

the Canadian people. Under the protectionist system there will be mass unemployment. We must remember that two million Canadians are working because of our exports, most of which go to the U.S.

I heard the Leader of the NDP talk about how great Canada is, and we all agree with that. He talked about the shortcomings of the Americans. After all, not every country can be as good as ours. However, essentially what he was advocating was protectionism. That is the way of the fearful. It is for those who have no self-confidence. It is for those with an inferiority complex. History has clearly demonstrated over and over again that protectionism is the way of a weak and insecure country. The NDP preach protectionism and that will lead Canada, and Alberta in particular, to stagnation, economic rust and high unemployment.

Our parents and grandparents could have said they were not going to leave the comfort of their own countries. Yet they did. They took risks, asking only for an opportunity. If this protectionist sentiment existed among our grandparents I wonder if there would have been any NDP Members here today. What if their parents or grandparents had been afraid to come to a wild country such as Canada? Wild, yes, but with opportunity.

I am suggesting that it is very important that we have this opportunity for free trade with the Americans. Theirs is the richest country in the world and they are one of the only countries who have the money to purchase some of our products and natural resources.

Several years ago we had another Government and it was supported by the NDP. Our national debt rose from \$18 billion to over \$200 billion. Today we pay \$29 billion in interest on that debt annually with no increase in productivity to show for it. We are now paying more in interest on that debt than we are for our social programs, and if in the last twenty years we had a Government such as this we would have been able to pay for all our social programs and we would have been eminently successful.

In conclusion, free trade offers Alberta many challenges and Canadians many opportunities. The lowering of tariff barriers and a more stable business and investment climate will stimulate economic growth and create new jobs. This will result in higher wages, an improved standard of living for Albertans, and that is why we need this agreement between the U.S. and Canada.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill S-17, an Act to authorize Montreal Trust Company of Canada to be continued as a