

The purpose of this government is to have Canada stand strong in the world. In eighteen months in Government, we have turned around the decline in our economy. Canada's economic outlook has never been better - and ladies and gentlemen, we are just getting started. Michael Wilson's budgets are part of that strategy. So too is the leadership we are taking in trade.

What we are proposing is to improve and secure the quality and the number of Canadian jobs by entering into trade negotiations; first with the world in the new GATT round and secondly with our largest trading partner, the United States.

Those negotiations both assert our sovereignty and assure our sovereignty.

Ladies and gentlemen, all nations have opinions. Strong nations have influence. Economic strength in Canada means international influence for Canada. Sovereignty is a function of economic capacity as well as national will.

Other sources of our sovereignty - our culture, our clean environment, our distinctive social programs - those are not a part of trade negotiations. But they benefit from successful trade negotiations.

More trade means more growth, and more growth means more money in Canada to contribute to the arts, to help pay for social programs and to afford these other activities which help define our distinctive country.

For Canadian nationalists, the real question is how do we find the economic strength to exercise that sovereignty. The answer is that we can build that strength only if we come to terms with the opportunities that exist in the world of trade.

In 1935, when most of the world was busy building walls of protectionism, Canada and the United States successfully negotiated a trade agreement. The principles spelled out then foreshadowed the founding principles of the first General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs in 1948 - the GATT.