

1930's proved definitively that the road to prosperity lies through fair and open trade. Working through multilateral bodies like the GATT and negotiating with one another under the auspices of the MTN is the only way to ensure our economic health.

Albertans and Calgarians, especially, realize the importance of trade. The growth of the oil patch was in large part predicated on secure markets to the south. The technology to harvest this mineral wealth was largely American. We benefitted from the flow of oil patch welders and engineers who migrated north of your borders just as American cowboys did a half century before.

Albertans have now reached the point where we can in turn pass on the expertise that we have developed in fields such as pipeline construction. The development of our tarsands and exploration in the Beaufort and Hibernia is the new frontier in energy exploration. Trade in technology and human expertise has been for the most part unfettered by tariff or other barriers. We want to keep it that way.

Indeed we want to increase our trade. And to achieve this goal we are looking to our principal market. We want to begin discussions with the United States to secure and enhance market access for both our countries. As a Government we are ready to take this step because it represents the best chance for those Canadians who want jobs.

A trade agreement with the United States could cause change. It represents a challenge. But Canadians and westerners, in particular, have never shirked a challenge.

A half century ago this week, at a time when the worst ravages of Depression were laying wreck to Canada's economy, our two nations began the long climb back to health when they agreed to place the trade relations of our countries on a basis of mutual understanding for the first time since Confederation. It was taken because both sides recognized and I quote from the joint statement of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister King: "that an increase in trade would be beneficially felt in all activities and because trade is but another word for increased employment, transportation and consumption."