

Mr. Speaker, those "fixes" for U.S. industry are protectionist measures directed, among other countries, against Canada.

Ambassador Gottlieb went on to say:

"The Free Trade Agreement will go a long way to substituting the rule of law for the politics of protectionism. For the smaller partner in the world's largest bilateral trading relationship, that will be a very significant achievement."

Mr. Speaker, that is what the Free Trade Agreement is all about, long-term solutions, based on reciprocal principles not raw political and economic power. Not only our security of access but also our sovereignty is strengthened by placing trade relations with the U.S. on the basis of equally-binding legal principles.

Security of access means preserving Canadian jobs in industries that might be threatened in the future. It also means creating new jobs in Canada because of our more secure access to the United States market.

Alasdair McKichan, President of the Retail Council of Canada said:

"There are a lot of investments, mostly European, waiting to be made in Canada once the Free Trade Pact is in force. Canadian companies are also waiting for the Free-Trade outcome before investing in their own operations."

And what of the Opposition's charge that the Free Trade Agreement will mean that we are turning our backs on other markets such as the Pacific Rim and Europe? Here's what the Economic Council of Canada had to say:

"Many believe that freer trade and expanded trade with the United States precludes expanded trade with other countries. There is no logical basis for this view. In fact, expansion of our export sector to serve U.S. customers could well facilitate the economies of scale needed to reach more distant markets."

Mr. Speaker, that is the case for the Free Trade Agreement. It will benefit every region of Canada, it will create jobs and increase investment, it will make Canada stronger, and it will help Canada to continue its development as a compassionate, dynamic and distinctive society.