

The list goes on and on. It is made more serious still by the fact that there are constant threats that Congress will unilaterally legislate trade restrictions. As we know, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a major trade bill, legislation which, if enacted, would significantly revise U.S. trade law, including proposals which hit Canada directly.

These problems were not created by the trade negotiations with the United States. They constitute the very reason those negotiations must proceed.

But if there is a need to protect the markets and the jobs we now have, there is also the opportunity for new jobs, new markets, new ways to demonstrate that Canada can compete with the best in the world.

We speak often of the global village. That is not an abstract idea or a moral injunction. The global village is where Canada must compete.

Perhaps the most important benefit of freer trade over the longer term is the spur to Canadian industry - especially the manufacturing sector - to successfully meet international competition at home and abroad.

At the same time, the proposed agreement would provide many Canadian producers with an unparalleled opportunity to gain open access to a market of some 240 million people - the richest market in the world. With that access would come the ability to rationalize our production, and to specialize in efficient large scale output of products that are highly competitive in the markets of the world.

Of course there are risks. No great venture of public policy is free of risk. But the risks of going forward are less than the risks of hanging on to outmoded policies while we watch the forces of protectionism destroy our existing markets.

Mr. Chairman, my father's father came to this province just as the century turned. In 1905, the year Alberta was born, he started a weekly newspaper in High River. Last Friday night, his great granddaughter and I, went down, to visit my mother, in the home he built in 1908, on the Old MacLeod Trail. That house was a mile out of town then. It is surrounded now, and that is the least of the changes in this province and country.