

ongoing participation of the provinces. Let me deal first with the private sector involvement, because I can take credit for it. It was my idea.

Basically, what we have done is create two formal private sector structures. One is known as the International Trade Advisory Committee -- or, as it is known acronymically, the ITAC. is headed by Walter Light, the former chairman of Northern Telecom, and is made up of 39 prominent Canadians who, together, represent all major sectors of the economy, both official languages, all provinces and all concerned interest groups -- from culture to consumers, from mining to manufacturing, from life insurance to labour, from forestry and farming to fisheries and fashion.

Three Winnipeggers are members of ITAC, by the way: Walter Kroeker of the Canadian Horticultural Association, Maureen Prendiville of Prendiville Industries and G.T. Richardson of James Richardson and Sons. I name them in alphabetical order so that I can't be accused of playing favourites.



The ITAC meets quarterly, and its members are the Canadian equivalent of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's dollar-a-year men. They are unpaid. They are also sworn to secrecy, as they are provided with sensitive industry and government documents. Each of them, of course, is an expert in his or her own field, and what we are looking for from the group is policy guidance on all matters involving trade. They report directly to me.

The other group -- or, to be more precise, groups -- are the Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade, which the acronymicists in their wisdom have shortened to SAGITs. This, by the way, is a bilingual acronym. In French, *s'agit* means to get your tail in gear.

Assuming they have, the SAGITs are 15 separate committees representing all the major sectors of the Canadian econ-

omy. They too meet four times a year -- each of them -- or more often if necessary, and their assignment is to look out for the interests of the sectors they represent. There will be many Manitobans on these SAGIT committees, and one of the most important of them, the Apparel and Fur Group, is headed by a man you may have heard of, Peter Nygard. They, like the ITAC, receive sensitive briefing material, serve without pay and report directly to me.

My role in all this is to keep the ITAC and SAGITs up to date with the negotiations -- and I should say that they are involved in our multilateral GATT negotiations, as well -- and to weigh and pass on their judgments to Cabinet and to Ambassador Reisman.



As for the role of the Provinces, which has been the topic of some discussion in the past months, here is what I can report.

On the second of June, the First Ministers agreed on a process for federal-provincial cooperation. The Prime Minister and the Provincial Premiers will meet every three months to review the progress of the talks with the United States. In addition, designated ministers from the provinces will meet whenever necessary with the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, to discuss developments in the trade negotiations. And, on the level of officials, who are the real technical experts on trade, the Continuing Committee on Trade Negotiations -- otherwise known as the CCTN -- meets regularly.

The object of all of this is to keep the Provinces fully informed of developments in our bilateral negotiations with the States and our multilateral negotiations with the world, and to get their input on both. It is a program that has been approved unanimously by all the Premiers, whether they be Progressive-Conservative, Liberal or N.D.P., and that is a point that I often wish the