

*The Address—Ms. Kim Campbell**[English]*

Vancouver Centre is the major business area of the city. Thousands of small businesses as well as many professional and corporate offices make Vancouver Centre an important area of employment. In addition, two great hospitals, St. Paul's and Vancouver General, are focal points for a large health care sector. Many arts and cultural organizations are headquartered in Vancouver Centre where theatres and galleries abound.

Vancouver prides itself on being Canada's gateway to the Pacific. In 1979, the Progressive Conservative Government established the Asia-Pacific initiative which has continued to play a leading role in fostering Vancouver's and Canada's Pacific role. My predecessor as Member for Vancouver Centre, the Hon. Pat Carney, made dramatic advances in Canada's trade with Asia during her tenure as Minister for International Trade. Our Government has continued this thrust and has supported Vancouver's efforts to play a key role here through many initiatives including the establishment of Vancouver as an international banking centre.

Vancouver Centre is the commercial heart not only of the city but of the province. In no other area is the economic interdependence of all areas of British Columbia so clearly illustrated. Much of the wealth that builds the skyscrapers of downtown Vancouver and employs an enormous service sector there is earned in the hinterlands and small communities of our province. The people who live and work in Vancouver Centre know full well the precarious position of all in an undiversified, resource based economy. Vancouver Centre is the economic pulse of the Province of British Columbia.

From October, 1986, to October 1988, I served as a Member of the British Columbia Legislature, during which time I travelled to all parts of the province.

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I have come to have a deep appreciation of the energy and creativity in my province. I have come to see how often the economic aspirations of British Columbians have been thwarted by the lack of access to a large regional market. Like other British Columbians I have watched with dismay as many of our most creative and productive people have moved to Toronto or to the United States in order to find a market large enough to sustain their enterprise.

I have seen how a policy of tariff escalation in the United States has prevented the growth of value added

industries in our resource based economies. As a former chairman of the Vancouver School Board I have seen how directly a recession that reduces public revenues affects the ability of a society to support its commitment to our young people without mortgaging their future.

The decision to run in this past election was enormously difficult for me requiring as it did that I resign my legislative seat. But I could not in the end stand by and watch the destruction of an agreement which would do so much to address the economic and social concerns that are so important to me.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre):** How can Vancouver retain its creativity and vitality without secure access to a large market? How can Canadian industries compete internationally from a protectionist base which discourages the qualities of efficiency so necessary to international competitiveness? Mr. Speaker, how can Canada continue to be a caring society and invest in its future human capital without a vibrant and diversified economy capable of paying the bill?

In the course of the recent debate about the free trade agreement, reference was made to the history of Canada and the supposed threat posed by the free trade agreement to the sanctity of that history. The vision of Canadian history reflected in this argument is a rather partial and myopic one. There is much in the 120-year history of our country which has engendered a deep-seated sense of grievance in the regions of Canada. No one who has studied the political history of Canada can be unaware of the profound impact that western resentment of the tariff policy has had on that history. The word "progressive" in Progressive Conservative was added when John Bracken—leader of the Progressive Party, an advocate of low tariffs—became the Conservative Leader.

British Columbia's grievances with respect to tariff policy result from two factors. First, the high tariffs on American imports to protect Canadian industries impose serious costs on British Columbia. That cost is estimated at \$5.7 billion over the past 20 years alone.

Second, negotiations by Canadian Governments with the United States to reduce American tariffs have focused upon raw resources but left the tariff escalation on value added production in place. In British Columbia with a tiny domestic market, these barriers seriously limit the opportunity for diversification of the resource economy through value added production.