

But success at the Uruguay Round encompasses more than the agricultural sector. Further reduction of tariffs on a wide range of goods will reward both our producers with more open markets, and our consumers with lower-priced goods. Agreement on subsidies definitions will do much to clear up the misunderstandings that have resulted in countervailing duty actions against Canadian products. With clearer rules, exporters will be able to stickhandle their products to market, with less fear of being called offside by a referee with a possible interest in the outcome.

Rules on intellectual property rights will spark creativity and innovation. The service sector, now representing two thirds of all jobs in Canada, will for the first time come under multilateral disciplines. But the most important achievement of a successful multilateral trade negotiation will be its contribution to the world economic climate. No economist can itemize every benefit of a world trade deal. But every economist knows that where there is business confidence, the entrepreneurial spirit thrives.

The successful completion of the Uruguay Round, by no means a sure thing at this point, will signal a continued commitment to order and stability on world markets. It will create an atmosphere of calm assurance for exporters. It will send a fundamental message that the trade-based prosperity, from which we have benefited for the past 40 years, will continue into the next century.

As I have said, the GATT is Canada's number one trade policy priority, but is not the only track on which we are pursuing our national trade interests.

A little more than three years ago, Canada and the United States signed the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. The FTA was a major step forward for the single largest trading relationship in the world. Trade between Canada and the U.S. was immense before 1989, but it is even bigger now. Total two-way trade between our countries was more than \$200 billion in 1991. That represents nearly \$108 billion in Canadian exports to the United States, and nearly \$93 billion in U.S. exports to Canada, resulting in a merchandise trade surplus in Canada's favour of \$15 billion. Canadian critics of the FTA have been relentless and unforgiving in their many accusations. But I have yet to hear them complain that Canada's annual exports to the U.S. were five per cent higher in 1991 than in 1988, the year before the FTA began. I guess it's hard to argue with success. I know that some of those critics would blame the FTA for every sparrow that falls, but these numbers suggest to me that, without the FTA, the global recession from which we are now emerging would have been worse for Canada than it was.