

Free Trade

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[English]

Even John Kenneth Galbraith says Canada clearly has a trading advantage under this deal and much wider access to the United States.

Sally Hall of the Consumers' Association of Canada said that free trade produces choice and competition and gives consumers real power in the market-place.

The Hon. Donald Macdonald said, this deal will be the envy of every other nation in the world.

[Translation]

Michel Roy wrote in *La Presse*: We must therefore conclude unequivocally that *La Presse* can welcome quite favorably this agreement as a major step towards a new economic, commercial and financial system between Canada and the United States.

As to the Cattlemen's Association . . . Laurent Beaudoin, president of Bombardier, stated: This agreement gives Canada more security and opportunity for Canada.

[English]

The Vice-President of Polysar, in a very important area of Ontario, in Sarnia, Mr. Bentley, said, it is going to enhance an already growing area. We got in the free trade agreement 100 per cent of what we asked for in Canada.

The C. D. Howe Institute said that women in the service sector in particular would see their employment prospects vastly improved.

Robert Nixon, Treasurer of the Government of Ontario, put out a report "Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review" which indicated that marginally lower prices for imported goods should lower consumer prices and modestly increase real incomes in Canada. The effect of this is to boost aggregate demand and stimulate industry in general. The net effects of mutual tariff reduction will be small but marginally positive. This is the Treasurer of Ontario, a Government against the free trade agreement, who says that it will bring greater prosperity for Ontario. We should all be so lucky!

I want to quote the friend of my hon. friend, the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent). He clearly has not heard this, so I want to be the first to bring him the good news. This brings such great advantages to his riding and to Bob White that they will probably be on the bandwagon by the time the bells ring this afternoon. George Peapples, Chairman and Chief Executive Office of GM and Chairman of the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association of Canada in Oshawa, Ontario, said:

The free trade agreement preserves the Auto Pact and its benefits and recognizes the contributions to the economy which Auto Pact producers have made in this country for many years. It cements and strengthens the automotive partnership which provides Canada and the U.S. with benefits they have long enjoyed and provides a secure basis for Canadian parts manufacturers—

Mr. Broadbent: He is pausing.

Mr. Mulroney: I want to make sure the Hon. Member hears this. He continues:

—to compete for business throughout North America, expanding and strengthening Canada's economic infrastructure.

Mr. Peapples says:

Our ability to serve that market in future will have a direct impact on our long-term prosperity and the job security of our employees. This is true for the auto industry and also for many other sectors. The free trade agreement, in our view, provides the framework we need to get on with the job.

I think these people are recognized as very distinguished Canadians with no axes to grind of which I am aware.

The Leader of the Opposition is chuckling. Let me give him another one.

Mr. Fulton: Let's have a quote from Walt Disney.

Mr. Mulroney: No, but I will give a quote from Dr. John Polanyi, the Canadian Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, who said:

Free trade is the way of the future. In science there is no duty level in ideas and we compete internationally. It is a logical extension that business which depends on ideas competes internationally.

Yesterday I met with the Premiers on this specific issue for the tenth time. Some of the meetings lasted eight, nine, and ten hours. I briefed them fully on the legal draft. At the ministerial and the official level no fewer than 20 official meetings were conducted. There have also been dozens and dozens of meetings of our sectoral advisory groups on international trade in 15 different important sectors of the economy, bringing together people from all walks of life, from every province, from every region, for two years of intensive input and consultation. Our international trade advisory committee, in which the public and private sector were also represented, has consulted absolutely fully.

I think I can say in fairness that at no time in the history of federal-provincial relations in Canada, on one issue, have officials, politicians, business leaders, and academics been invited to devote so much time, invited into the decision-making process, in exchanging views and providing counsel to the country and advice to the Government. If you want to put it into some perspective, when important matters—

Mr. Tobin: Please do.

Mr. Mulroney: I will. You could compare that with the manner in which a previous Government at the end of one afternoon brought in the National Energy Program without the slightest consultation with any of the provinces and devastated part of the economy of western Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gauthier: And you rang the bells for two weeks.

Mr. Mulroney: I will compare it as well with the Auto Pact which was negotiated without so much as a "by your leave" to