

- The NAFTA does not give the U.S. or Mexico any right to exploit our water. Claims to the contrary are absurd puffery. Canada's 1987 federal water policy act explicitly prohibits large-scale exports of water by interbasin transfer or diversion, and nothing in the NAFTA or any other trade agreement forces Canada to exploit our water resources or to export our water. Until water enters commerce as a good, it is not covered by the NAFTA or any other trade agreement. The bottom line is that Canadian governments, both now and under the NAFTA, have the freedom of action to regulate the exploitation of our water resources. Period.
- The NAFTA does not threaten Canadian jobs. Low productivity, recession-battered markets, protectionist trade barriers, inflation-driven prices, volatile exchange rates, inward-looking business plans—all these threaten Canadian jobs. The NAFTA does not create competition. Canada is already competing against low-wage countries and high-wage countries throughout the world, and their markets are our hope for the future.

Conclusion

In 1948, C.D. Howe said the following:

The times in which we are living call for initiative and resourcefulness We must be constantly alive to the changes taking place in the world and quick to seize every opportunity that will build up our economy It cannot be done overnight but I am confident that, with the co-operation of industry, of government and of [other] organizations ... we can build toward a better Canada and a better world.

Canada can and must compete. Canadians can and must win in world markets. Canada must pursue a vigorous, outward-looking trade strategy to maintain and enhance the prosperity and social benefits our citizens enjoy. Mr. Speaker, if the great nation-builders of Canadian history taught us any lesson, it was to make farsighted choices for the benefit of future generations. Our future generations deserve no less from this House.