enjoy the largest single trading relationship in the world. In 1946, for example, the United States took 40% of our exports. It now takes three quarters of them.

But we have a problem. Our access to the American market is now in serious danger of being eroded. The Americans, in particular the Congress, are getting more protectionist by the day. They keep coming up with new ways to keep our products out. This summer, for example, four Western states slapped a prohibition on our pork on the excuse that our pigs were being fed an antibiotic they didn't approve of.

Or take lumber. Americans buy more than half of all we produce, and 60,000 Canadian jobs depend on their continuing to do so. But there are three separate bills now before the United States Congress that would restrict our sales of softwood lumber. That puts a lot of jobs in jeopardy.

This is just a sampling. Canadian steel is under recurrent threat, as we all well know. So is sugar. And fish. And salt. And egg flats. And raspberries. And blueberries. And so forth and so on, and on and on. There is even talk in theUnited States now of imposing a surcharge on all imports, and that would be a severe blow to all of our economy. It has been estimated that a 10% reduction in our exports alone could throw a quarter of a million Canadians out of work.

Let me bring things even closer to home. Let's focus on the Sault.

If our access to the United States market were curtailed, Sault Ste. Marie would be devastated. If our access were improved, on the other hand, so would the economy of the region.

Why? Because most of the Sault's major employers derive a large part of their income from doing business with the States.

Let me give you some examples.

St. Mary's Paper sells 100% of its product in the United States. That's 500 jobs.

G.W. Martin sells three-quarters of its lumber to the United States. But there are now three separate Bills in front of Congress that would restrict our lumber exports to the U.S. G.W. Martin employs 430 people in the Sault area.