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crisis and the behaviour of the Seven Sisters, we should know just how demonic and destructive economic and multinational giants can be.

That is the basic start of the Liberal alternative. We think we can go much further. Why is it that in the three years since the Tories have been in government trade with the rest of the world has declined? There has been a 30 per cent drop in trade with the Pacific Rim. There has been a drop in trade with Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America. The Government is not interested in becoming a world trader or in opening up new markets. It has cut back on embassies, trade offices, international development programs, and trade assistance for small business. Is it any wonder our trade has dropped by 30 per cent with the Pacific Rim? It is because the Government has a mad obsession with the North American market and is taking the easy way out.

As Liberals we say that we have an alternative. We are the Party which speaks for Canadians. We have real confidence in Canadians becoming world traders and international salesmen of our goods and products around the world. It is the Tories who are afraid and are retreating into a North American hiding place. They are trying to find some protection in that shadow. They are the ones who do not have the guts and courage to say that we must define and develop a trading relationship on a world-wide basis. They have shown in the last three years what a bunch of 'fraidy cats they are. With this agreement there will be no hope for the establishment of ourselves as effective international traders.

Mr. Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): What nonsense.

Mr. Axworthy: We will see what kind of nonsense it is when we come to the next election.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Axworthy: We also say as part of our alternative that any Government really interested in forging an effective international competitive position must be prepared to invest in this country—in the brains of the country, in research and development, and in the infrastructure—so that we in Canada have a capacity to do it.

What has the Government done? It has cut back on universities and training schools. It has cut back on infrastructure. It has cut back on research and development. In other words, the very sinews by which a country is able to develop and enhance its international competitiveness are being reduced. The Government is pulling back and withdrawing.

How can we believe that they want us to be great world traders? Of course they do not. They want to be basket cases. They want to find that big, warm bathtub south of us in which they can wallow because they are not prepared to take on the kinds of initiatives required to ensure that the country is competitive. That has been their history in the last three years.

In combination with forging a new kind of international outlook, we must have a new domestic outlook geared to refining our industry and investing in infrastructure and research in our universities. Let us invest in the people of this country so they will go out and take on a leading trade role for Canada around the world, rather than cut back, reduce, and subtract. That is the Liberal alternative for which we will fight in the next election. That is the alternative we will put forward for the consideration of Canadians.

We believe without question that there is a very clear requirement for this decision to be decided by Canadians. Let Canadians decide what is in the national interest. The Tories have a vision of a North American continental fortress and hiding in the shadows of their big brother. We require an international world trading opportunity which will serve the national interest without surrendering our fundamental institutions and without surrendering our right to make public decisions in the interest of Canadians. Canadians will decide what is in the national interest.

In keeping to that, I would like to move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia):

That the motion be amended by inserting immediately after the comma following the word "interest" the following:

"as determined by the people of Canada in a general election"

That is where the national interest will be determined.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Naturally I will look at the motion and reserve my decision.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock later this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[*English*]

TRADE

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION OF ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, the Anglican Church of Canada says that a free trade agreement "must provide demonstrable benefits for the people of all regions and at all economic levels."

The Church is very concerned that certain principles will be violated by a free trade agreement with the United States. In particular, the possibility exists that the most vulnerable