

Said Mr. Sim: "It removes the big club that is being held over our heads as far as U.S. protectionism is concerned; it provides greater access of Canadian hogs and cattle to the U.S. market, and as such should guarantee continued viability of western Canada's livestock industry."

"And since the industry is western Canada's largest customer for grain, that will help maintain feed grain markets for western Canada."

That proves a point many people overlook. Which is that what benefits one group in our economy usually has the effect of spreading the benefits to quite a few more...all based on easier access to export markets.

All the sectors touched by the agreement are important; and not the least of these is energy.

What that means to our economy was probably best summed up by Hans Maciej, the Vice President of the Canadian Petroleum Association, speaking to a reporter from the Calgary Herald.

He said: "Let me just remind those critics who suggest that we have sold our soul to the devil by including energy in the free trade agreement that without our energy trade Canada would have suffered a trade deficit of \$3 billion in the first six months of 1987."

Actually, in 1985 Canada exported close to \$15 billion in energy products when you include oil, gas, electricity and uranium. That trade provides a livelihood for many thousands of Canadians.

Some of those exports were threatened by US restrictions.

The agreement secures our markets; and the Americans secure their supply.

The provinces own the resources and continue to manage and regulate them, and the Canadian ownership regulations still apply.

The agreement also enshrines this government's energy policy which deregulated the industry and allowed the energy producers to sell at world prices. That's important to those energy-producing provinces, who do not see why they should sell below market price when other provinces -- like Ontario -- command market price for the items which they produce.