

Ontario. Much of that boom is based on what now amounts to free trade in automobiles. My colleague, the Minister of Finance will be speaking more specifically about the Auto Pact a little later in this debate. Just let me remind Members of this House that there was considerable controversy over that agreement when it was negotiated more than 20 years ago. The Leader of the NDP in this House has consistently called for its renegotiation. Instead, it has been a resounding success and created thousands of jobs in Ontario. Those of us from other parts of the country watch this trade-based boom in Ontario with some envy. However, we mostly ask why our workers and our industries cannot have the same chance. If free trade is good for Ontario, why not for Atlantic Canada, Quebec, the Prairies, or British Columbia? What better way is there to reduce regional disparities than to give others a shot at competing in the American Market on the same terms?

This Government has laid out what it is seeking to achieve, and why, in these negotiations with the U.S. We are seeking a secure economic future for Canadians working now and for those to come. We firmly believe that free trade is the best route to that goal. We have a plan and we are on track but what do we hear from the other side of the House? From the Liberals we have a long complicated resolution which says "maybe", "if", "but", and "ifsoever". There is nothing positive in this long complicated Liberal amendment. There is no suggestion that there are other things which are equally important for us. There is the implication that if they do not get everything here in this long list, then maybe they do not want to proceed at all. I do not think that is good enough for Canadians.

From the NDP we have a long complicated motion presented at their convention this past weekend which says no to free trade. It says categorically: "Therefore be it resolved the New Democrats in Government will withdraw from the comprehensive trade negotiations presently taking place with the U.S. and would instead pursue the following trade strategy". It is a mishmash, cherry-picking list of sectoral free trade. History has shown that sectoral free trade is not on for either country. It is not acceptable.

The NDP talk about GATT but ignores the fact that our negotiations are consistent with GATT. The Liberals make a point of saying they do not want an all-inclusive free trade agreement with the U.S. but they do want more negotiations in GATT. Those two positions, as the Honourable Member knows, are inconsistent. You cannot have a free trade agreement consistent with GATT unless it is a comprehensive agreement. GATT will not permit it. The way we are going is the way we can go within GATT. The way the Liberals are pursuing this issue is inconsistent with the GATT that they talk so much about supporting.