

They would tear up the agreement that provides the security for trade, the agreement that furnishes the framework of rules and procedures that gives Canadians the confidence to take on tough markets, the agreement that provides the foundation for two million jobs in Canada.

Our appreciation of that agreement and the trade it represents should not be misled by focusing entirely on irritants. Such irritants are not a sign of weakness but the result of strength. They are a recognition by American interests that we are successful traders. That does not make them easier to accept. These trade disputes sting but it should at least give us some perspective on this whole issue.

Five per cent of our exports to the United States are affected by the current list of irritants. We do not like that number. We do not like the irritants but we have to reduce the number. We have to remember also that 95 per cent of the trade is flowing freely, exactly as we would like.

We are confident with respect to the irritants that right is on our side. Tearing up the agreement would place the 95 per cent at risk. How is that for a great trade strategy? Who would benefit from such a flight from reality? To compound the error of tearing up the FTA, the resolution would have Canada walk away from the NAFTA negotiations.

An hon. member: And the GATT.

Mr. Winegard: And the GATT, as my colleague says. Not only would the resolution ensure a trade war with the United States, it would tell Canada and by implication our Latin American trading partners that we are not prepared to work with them, that we are no longer interested in creating a trading future based on a framework of stable and orderly rules. Make no mistake, that is what the NAFTA negotiations are all about and that is what we would turn our back on.

The GATT world trade talks are an integral and critical element in Canada's trade strategy. It is neither an alternative to nor unrelated to the FTA or the NAFTA. They are all a concerted effort by Canada and its trading partners to create a more ordered and more predictable global trading system. Each is an effort to strengthen the rules, to improve procedures to resolve disputes and to bind nations to a common approach to the regulation of trade and investment.

Supply

For Canada, the success of these negotiations is critically important. It will help us gain and defend access to the markets of the world, including the United States and Mexico. In other words, we have not placed our eggs in a single basket, rather we are defending and promoting Canadian trade interests wherever there is an opportunity to do so.

I just came back from an OECD meeting of science and technology ministers having to do with the economy and growth. The whole meeting, with governments of every stripe, concentrated on how we can all be more prosperous, how we can all trade with each other, how we can all have economies of benefit if we have the rules of the game clearly spelled out. That is what this is all about.

Our trade with the United States is important, but so is our trade with the rest of the world.

In 1991, our trade with all of our trading partners totalled \$381.6 billion; that is one-quarter of our Gross Domestic Product. Trade with countries other than the United States totalled \$124.7 billion. You have to remember that merchandise exports of \$34.1 billion translate into more than a million jobs for Canadians. Our merchandise trade with countries other than the United States is growing. Our global approach has been instrumental in a 5 per cent annual growth in that trade since we took office.

Those numbers are the result of Canada's multi-faceted, global trade strategy. Canadian entrepreneurs know that wherever they go they can count on the support of Canada's 1,060 trade commissioners. They know where to find them at 90 offices across the world, at headquarters and at international trade centres across Canada. They know they can rely on hundreds of agreements that Canada has negotiated to smooth their way: air agreements, double tax agreements, economic co-operation agreements, investment agreements, export financing agreements.

Canadian exporters know that they can draw on the support programs developed to assist their marketing efforts: the Program for Export Market Development (PEMD), trade fairs and missions, the Strategic Ventures Program, Going Global, CIDA Inc., the EDC and more.

There is probably not a member in this House who has not used one or more of those programs to promote trade in their own constituency. It is interesting that