

One of the historic Canadian companies - now known as the Hudson Bay Company - didn't start with that name. The name it started with, the name in its charter, is the Company of Adventurers Trading in the Hudson Bay. That really catches the idea of what this country has been about.

There would never have been a Canada if people were so timid that instead of looking for opportunities to exploit, they looked for walls to hide behind. There would never have been a Canada if we had that kind of timidity at the core of our national character. But we didn't have. We had an opposite instinct at the core of our character. Indeed, we had it to a greater degree than they did.

We settled the tough half of North America. It was far easier to build Virginia than it was to build Ontario. It was far easier to build California than it was to build British Columbia. We have settled the winter half of North America. We took a piece of geography that was full of resources, but full of daunting obstacles and we weren't daunted by the obstacles.

The history of this country has been to reach over those obstacles and to recognize that we can prevail if we seek to prevail.

That's really what is at issue now as we look at the trade question. It is very important that the details of the agreement be read. That's why we put it before a Committee. That's why we brought the provinces in. That's why we have embarked on the most extensive public information campaign that has ever been seen in the development of an international agreement. That's why we have done all of those things.

Those details are very important because those are the details that your lawyers, your accountants and your salesmen are going to have to live with.

But the other thing that is important is the spirit that inspires what we do. Are we going to be a country that looks for walls to hide behind or are we going to be a country who looks for opportunities to reach out to?

I think we are going to be a country in keeping with the Canadian tradition that reaches out for opportunities.

Thank you.