

If you were from Alberta, you would understand the human cost of the protectionist policy of the National Energy Program. If you were from New Brunswick, you would understand the human cost of the protectionism of the Foreign Investment Review Agency. The opponents of this agreement want to take us back to that philosophy of FIRA and of fear - the view that Canada is too frail to handle investment, too weak to compete in the world.

And what to these Canadian protectionists want to protect? Well, when they oppose this agreement, they want to protect New Brunswick against growth; they want to protect Alberta against jobs. We've had enough of that. Some parts of Canada may be rich enough to indulge in that luxury. Most of Canada needs growth and wants jobs and is perfectly confident that Canada can compete in the world.

Modern Canadian nationalists define this nation as including New Brunswick, including Alberta, including the North, including the people who need jobs, the youngsters who want a future, the entrepreneurs who want to prove that to be a Canadian is to be the best in the world. And that is what the Trade Agreement is about.

What this debate is about is the quality and confidence people have in this country, this old Canadian city - built on confidence of Canadians in our ability to trade with the best, not just in this country, but the world. It is the history of Saint John, the history of New Brunswick, it is the history of Canada. That's a history that people became a little timid about

for a while. This is a new era, a new time in the country. I can take all the manufacturers and entrepreneurs across this province and across this country. I have no doubt about your ability to compete in the North American market and no doubt about your ability to compete in the world. We are a very strong country. The only question is how much confidence do we have in ourselves. Yes, this government has made a judgement about that. We believe that this is a country that is full of confidence in itself and full of the ability to beat the competition anywhere in the world.

Of course, we had to do that, the country knows, because to do anything else is to wither. We have no fears about our ability to stand strong before the world. We started with our largest trading partner. We've done that. The challenge is now to make sure that this agreement and what falls from it continue to work and to carry that issue into the wider world. I have no doubt we have taken a historic decision. When we will look back upon it in years to come, it will appear as important