

cent of Canada's imports come from the U.S., Europe and Japan -- which enjoy the world's highest wages?

In addition, I should point out that almost 80 per cent of Mexican imports already enter Canada duty free and the Canadian marketplace is hardly dominated by those products.

One final observation. The critics are in effect saying to the millions of Mexicans who yearn for better jobs that they should continue to live in poverty and not be provided the prosperity which only trade can bring. For these critics, Mexico is for vacations, but not vocations.

One thing the critics are not is economists. They believe jobs gained in one country implies jobs lost in another. That is neither the intent nor the effect of freer trade. The effect is more jobs for everyone, greater prosperity and productivity for all.

In 1988, the Canadian government was attacked for the FTA. Much of that had nothing to do with trade. Everything under the sun was said to be threatened -- our health care system, our environment, our pensions, our entire social safety net and our national identity. The FTA has had none of those consequences. The critics are now forced to focus on the economic effects of the FTA. And as the balance sheet comes in, those effects are showing up in the "plus" column for both countries.

Leadership won the day in 1988. It must win the day in 1991 -- maintaining full and fair implementation of the FTA, moving forward with the MTN and negotiating free trade with Mexico. Trade is the engine of the modern economy and the freer the trade the more powerful the engine. That principle is clear. History says it's true. Only leadership can make it fact.