

are to gain a foothold in the huge southern market which will become a worthy challenge to our skills and enable us to create a great many new jobs. Mr. Speaker, Canadian workers need these jobs now, and tomorrow younger generations will take over.

Anxious to create these job opportunities for young Canadians, in 1985 the Conservative Government set up a comprehensive employment policy geared to training. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this policy is to meet the challenge of the skilled labour force training necessary to hold specialized positions in a highly technical and competitive Canadian industry. This policy is particularly aimed at our young people coming on the labour market. Mr. Speaker, gone are the days in Canada when without proper training, a young man could find a good and financially rewarding job. The need for unskilled workers is waning because our industrial base is continually developing to meet the harsh competition on world markets.

With or without a free trade agreement, Mr. Speaker, this reality of a greater need for a specialized labour force remains true. That is why the Government has put together an employment policy which is flexible and consistent with local needs.

To prepare a flexible and competent labour force, and prepare young Canadians to hold specialized jobs represent one of the greatest challenges Canada has ever been faced with. An employment planning strategy which already reflects the policy of the Canadian Government is already in motion. All its programs involve an element of manpower training or retraining. Steps will be taken to ensure Canada has the necessary qualified labour force to successfully participate in the new economic order. We need not only provide young Canadians with jobs consistent with their expectations, but we must also rely on them. And our Prime Minister perfectly expressed this deep conviction when he stated in the House of Commons on October 5, 1987, and I quote: "We go forward with confidence in our future, confidence in our country, and, most of all, confidence in the youth of Canada. We have set a course for a stronger, a more united, and a more prosperous Canada. It is not a path—it never was and it never will be—for the faint of heart, but this country was not built by timid souls. This is a pact for the daring, the innovative and the nation-builders who are now called upon to make a firm decision on behalf of a strong, united, and prosperous as Canada."

These are the distinctive qualities of youth and that is why the young people are confident in their ability to take on the new challenges that will confront them.

These young people support the Free Trade Agreement because they are aware that only in a stable and prosperous economy will they be able to fully develop their potential. Surely, they want to be able to choose from a host of interesting jobs, but they also want to test their talents as managers, entrepreneurs and innovators.

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Who will have the courage, Mr. Speaker, to deny them a future worthy of their aspirations and their hopes? Precisely those who refuse to see in this agreement our best guarantee of economic success, the free trade detractors, Mr. Speaker, those who play up the fears by spreading false rumours, those who share neither the will and the foresight of their forefathers nor the spirit and the determination of their children, those who cast doubts upon the worthiness of our enterprises and those who believe that we do not have the power to preserve our distinct character and identity and who believe that an essentially trade-oriented agreement is a step towards our assimilation by the United-States!

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind those people today that Canada is and has always been a strong and distinct country and that foreseeing its assimilation amounts to doubting the very stature of those who built this nation. Nothing in this Agreement threatens our sovereignty any more than our social programs. Our Government has always vowed that Canada's sovereignty would not be jeopardized by a trade agreement and it has kept its word.

Mr. Speaker, I see that my allotted time has expired. That is a pity because I do have a lot more to say.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the Hon. Member's speech, and perhaps I should say hon. neighbour, since our ridings are next door to each other. First of all, I would like to congratulate him on his excellent speech. I noticed, however, that in his speech he said that the free trade agreement contained a guarantee for the sale of Canadian agricultural products in the United States. I would like to ask the Minister, who mentioned agriculture at the beginning of his comments, what specific part of the agreement contains this guarantee that will help us sell our agricultural products to the United States.

Mr. Cadieux: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for his kind remarks—and I must say that doesn't happen very often—in referring to my speech. In fact, Mr. Speaker, and I say this for the benefit of all Canadians, we share a common border which separates our two ridings, mine on the Quebec side and the Hon. Member's on the Ontario side.

As for the free trade agreement, I think that all Canadians who have followed this debate from the very beginning—a debate that did not start recently, since it has been going on for a very long time . . . I remember mentioning in a previous speech how many hours of debate we have had and how many committee meetings, including the Legislative Committee and the Senate Committee and the Committee of the House of Commons, all of which considered these issues. Mr. Speaker, everybody realizes that what we obtained through the free trade agreement was guaranteed access to the U.S. market for our products, including agricultural products, and that the main advantage was also that we obtained a mechanism for the settlement of disputes that might arise from time to time,