

work with the provinces to build a better, fairer and more equitable Canada.

As the Government faces those opportunities, often, we hope, presented to it by those of us on this side of the House, we will be watching the extent of the Government's commitment. If we see one part of these programs eroded, we will alert the Canadian people. It will be our responsibility during the next four years to stand as watch-dogs for Canada over the future of this country.

• (1550)

There is a six-month cancellation clause in this agreement. During the television debate, the Prime Minister referred to this as just a commercial transaction. He invited Canada to exercise that six-month cancellation clause should any of his commitments be undermined. It will be our responsibility in the months and years ahead to stand in this place for Canada and to ensure that the hope that the Prime Minister expresses for this agreement is in fact realized and that history will not regret tonight's moment.

[Translation]

Mr. Maurice Tremblay (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, this is my first time to address this House since our election. First of all, I would obviously like to thank my fellow citizens from the wonderful riding of Lotbinière.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents, like those in the 169 Conservative ridings in Canada, on November 21 chose the way of prosperity by giving their support to the only political party in this country proposing a trade agreement with our largest trading partner, the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you quite humbly that I really enjoyed the last election campaign because the voters were faced with an extremely straight-forward situation.

The three parties in the race offered the people a program. On the one hand, the New Democratic Party, being for virtue, changed its policies and programs to suit the opinion polls. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party in this election campaign insisted that the debate be essentially on one issue, the Free Trade Agreement.

As for us, Mr. Speaker, we had to answer for the last four years of our mandate, from 1984 to 1988, and for the next four years. Our record for the past four years was extremely prosperous and full of accomplishments. You will recall that the polls conducted at the beginning

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of the election campaign showed that the outgoing Government was extraordinarily popular. Never had there been so many favorable polls for a government.

Mr. Speaker, a government's role is to give the people something to strive for, a challenge. The only party in the running that had an attractive plan for the people was the Progressive Conservative Party. All the Official Opposition, the Liberal Party, could say was that what the Conservatives were offering was no good; that was negativism.

In the end, Mr. Speaker, faced with this situation, the people on November 21 realized that they had had a competent government for the past four years. Remember that in 1984, we had inherited a deteriorating, disastrous situation, with a \$38.3-billion deficit, let me remind you. It was frightening!

So on the basis of these facts, seeing that we had given the country good government again, the people obviously wanted to hear what the future government could give them over the next four years. Mr. Speaker, we had achieved a most masterful agreement in the present circumstances, an agreement for prosperity. That is what our business men and women achieved.

Mr. Speaker, my riding of Lotbinière essentially is quite representative of the social and economic dimensions of our immense country. I have many dairy farmers—more than 1,100—with their wives and husbands, children and friends, and also many small and medium-sized businesses that have not only achieved tremendous economic development but also have developed an expertise that enables them to reach the markets of the United States, Europe and even Africa.

Mr. Speaker, you certainly know the Vibec Group in Victoriaville, a highly competent engineering firm, which has managed to use its expertise beyond the limits of the riding, the province and the country, by opening up new markets in both Europe and Africa.

We also have—I want to salute it now because it has just established itself in my riding—the Cascade Corporation in Kingsley Falls which is administered with dynamism by the Lemaire brothers whose leadership is only equalled by the great dimensions of this country.

There are also in my riding quite a number of furniture-making businesses which for years have had subsidiaries in the United States. May I remind you also, Mr. Speaker, that in the City of Princeville alone, there are five major boat-building firms which also must