

I'm honoured by your invitation and delighted, as always, to be in Calgary. I've just come from two days of meetings of the Cabinet Priorities and Planning Committee in Kelowna, where we looked at our agenda for a united Canada and a prosperous Canada. In our time, no less than in Macdonald and Cartier's time, the two issues really come down to the same thing: building a stronger country.

The unity or constitutional issue has to do with how we get along together. The prosperity or competitiveness issue is about how well we do together. Each is meaningless -- even impossible -- without the other. Clearly we can't go forward on one, or the other, without a consensus on the constitutional and competitive challenges facing us.

I want to talk to you today primarily about competitiveness and our agenda for prosperity. I want to make very clear that we're in this for the long game, and we're playing to win. There are no long touchdown passes in this game. The only way to win is to move the yardsticks down the field. And the only way to do that is to have a winning game plan. That's how we see Canada and Canadians, as a nation of winners who welcome the opportunities of the emerging global economy.

Albertans have never been afraid of the competition, particularly in the energy business, and you've always looked for new markets for your products and services. I was recently in Kuwait, with a Canadian trade delegation that included Lee Richardson, your MP from Calgary South. Out of the tragedy of the Iraqi invasion, real opportunities are emerging for Canadian expertise in the economic and environmental reconstruction of that country. We met Mike Miller of Safety Boss of Calgary, who by then had capped fires in dozens of wells. Another Calgary firm of oil fire specialists, Red Flame, has just received a \$25-million contract from Kuwait. Canadian firms are right in there competing with the best in the global services market.

Albertans are no strangers to trade, either. Without the support of Alberta, there would have been no ratification of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the 1988 election. For years, Albertans have asked for the unfettered market opportunities offered under the Free Trade Agreement: in energy; in agriculture; and in the high-technology products and professional services of the diversified Alberta economy. The importance of energy, and the importance of trade in energy, cannot be overstated. Fully 20 per cent of the Alberta economy is in oil and gas. Over 50 per cent of Alberta's exports are in oil and gas. And nearly three-quarters of all Alberta's exports to the United States are in energy. But energy doesn't stand to be the only winner under free trade. Chemicals, food processing, manufacturing and services all stand to do well.

I like the confidence expressed by the Alberta business community. Bud McCaig, President of Trimac Trucking of Calgary,