

I, naturally am not going to abuse your hospitality by discussing the Provincial election, although I think you will not be surprised to learn that during a little bit of free time this afternoon, I will be out working to elect Progressive Conservatives. You will perhaps allow me one other comment. I don't know the Liberal Leader of New Brunswick, but I do know Richard Hatfield. He and I have even disagreed on one to two spectacular occasions. But among the political leader of our time, Richard Hatfield is one of a small handful whose leadership has genuinely changed the history of our country - and changed it for the better. I wouldn't dream of trying to influence your decision in an election - after all - some of you disregarded my advice in 1980 - but at least one of the leaders in this campaign - the leader I know - is a man of extraordinary courage, vision and dedication to his people and his province.

I have a great satisfaction in being here after the conclusion of the trade talks because they kept me as they kept Gerry Merrithew and other ministers very busy over the past several months. In fact I was down at the UN a couple of weeks ago - I was supposed to be there for four days - I kept being called back to Canada for emergency meetings. My daughter Catherine, having found me for the second consecutive morning at breakfast when I was supposed to be in New York, look at me and said, "Daddy, why do you keep coming home?" I am told by people with daughters a little bit earlier that becomes a more dangerous question as life goes on.

But one of the reasons for our satisfaction and for mine on the trade matter is that for a long time we have been engaged in a fanthom war, in a phony war. But we now have an agreement whose details are known and will become known. That allows us to deal with the real issues that are at stake here, and not become preoccupied by a number of suggestions or false fears that might be raised. There have been concerns for example that actions might be taken that would emperil the ability of the government of Canada to contribute to regional development. That has not happened. Canada's capacity to contribute to regional development as we always have remains unimpaired by this agreement. There was a concern that there might be an impact on our ability to follow Canadian cultural goals - that has not occurred. There was a concern that there might be some limitation on the freedom on Canadian producers to organize into marketing boards - that has not occurred. There was a range of other fears that were generating a great debate in the country but had nothing to do with what was being discussed and nothing to do with the proposal that is before us now.

I'm not going to spend a lot time on the critics of the proposal at this stage today, but I just want to make the point that the people that are the most dramatic in their opposition to this proposal were opposed to it before they saw it, were opposed to it in principal, are not opposed to what it proposes, but are opposed to the very idea of seeking this kind of arrangement with the United States or presumably, on the record, with anybody else. I thing that that should be borne in mind.