

### Supply

States is just marginally behind us and that is important to consider.

Let us go back to some of those indicators that I mentioned earlier. When foreign corporations, banking institutions and entrepreneurs take a look at a country and decide where they are going to invest, those are some of the things that they look at. They look particularly at inflation.

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Inflation under the previous administration, as I pointed out, is exactly 10 times less today than it was 10 years ago. Canada is open for investment. We are going to continue to get foreign investment in this country because the indicators are there that some of the things that we are doing are starting to work.

Let me go through more of them. Labour productivity in this country rose 3.3 per cent in the first half of this year. It never did that under the previous administration. Labour unit growth decelerated. It went down. It is one of the things that we like to see go down. Labour costs went down. They fell sharply to 1.5 per cent in the first half of 1992 from a high of 8.2 per cent in the first quarter of 1991.

Those are the types of numbers that investors are looking at. Those are the types of things that investors in this country take some satisfaction from. They know that it is not perfect out there, but they know the fundamentals are there. That is important.

One thing that has not happened in 25 or 30 years is that relative to the United States, our big trading partner to the south, unit labour costs in Canada were down almost 5 per cent in the first half of this year, a remarkable statistic. That should be telling all Canadians that we are becoming competitive and the rest of the world is recognizing that. We just need a few breaks along the way to move to where we want to be with those unemployment numbers increasingly declining, going down, moving in the right direction.

In relation to the free trade agreement, I have mentioned some of the numbers and I mentioned the fact that our trade surplus with the United States this year will be the highest in the history of Canada, not lower. Our exports of goods and services have increased by over \$15 billion since the FTA was implemented. Canada's share of the total U.S. imports has risen 3 per cent to 20

per cent since 1989. In other words, the total number of goods imported into that country in relation to Canada has increased by 3 per cent, but do not tell anybody that. Do not tell the United States that. If it knew that it would not be too pleased with the statistic.

What does the NDP say about all this? My Liberal friends will get a kick out of this one. What did the leader of the NDP say the other day? She said if they get elected they are going to do a couple of things. The first thing they are going to do is tear up that agreement. They are going to change it. We will not have to worry about her tearing it up or the NDP because it is not going to take office. The fight will be between us and the folks immediately across the Chamber.

I should not blame it on the leader of the NDP because this is party policy, they were all part of this one, but the leader of the NDP is also telling us that if they take office they will abolish the GST. This is most interesting. What they are forgetting is that the GST accounts for about \$18 billion worth of revenue.

Again, our friends across the Chamber recognize that. They have basically said there may be some restructuring—they will not tell us what kind of restructuring—but no way can they eliminate it because they are smart enough to know that you cannot forgo \$18 billion in revenue.

The folks at the other end of the Chamber, the NDP, have indicated that they will eliminate the GST or that source of revenue, totalling \$18 billion. They forgot to tell us what they are going to replace it with. Correction, they did not tell us what they would replace it with, they will not replace it. What they will do is add another \$18 billion on to the debt load.

Perhaps they will not. Perhaps what they will do is follow the member for Timmins—Chapleau. He says if we take office do not worry about borrowing money, do not worry about raising money, we will just turn on the printing presses and print more money. That is the other side of their philosophy.

What it brings to mind is an article in *Maclean's* magazine of November 23. The article, *Business Watch*, written by Peter C. Newman, says beware of Marxist philosophy. David Blake called it Marxist philosophy but he alludes to the Marx brothers, Harpo, Groucho, and Chico. They all reside on that end of the Chamber. That is the Marxist philosophy that they follow because you do