

one of the most successful trade agreements ever negotiated anywhere in the world. The residents and businesses of Durham have thrived as a result of that trade agreement. It is more than interesting to note that Simon Reisman, who negotiated the Free Trade Agreement we are discussing tonight, also negotiated the extremely successful Auto Pact.

I think it is also interesting to note that manufacturers in the Canadian auto industry shipped a total of \$38 billion worth of products in 1987, and \$34 billion of that total was sent to export. In the Province of Ontario, \$30 billion worth of exports, essentially 50 per cent of the exports of the whole Province of Ontario, came from the auto sector. That is how important it is to the economy of Ontario, the economy of Canada, and most certainly to the economy of Durham.

Over 160,000 people work in the auto sector. In the 1980s, there will be approximately \$13 billion of investment from automobile manufacturers and parts manufacturers put into the economy of Canada. That is a phenomenal amount, and a significant proportion of that was in and around the area I represent.

● (2050)

The Auto Pact has allowed automobile producers and parts manufacturers to rationalize, specialize and increase their productivity, and to sell on both sides of the border. In fact, some of them in my area are exporting auto parts to Japan. This is very clearly a tremendous success story. Yes, the Auto Pact is somewhat different from free trade. We have heard that many times from the opponents of the Free Trade Agreement.

Still, it is a clear indication that Canadian workers and Canadian companies can compete on an international basis. They have done that extremely successfully. The people of Durham know that we can compete in many other sectors by the strength of the majority with which the voters of that area sent me here to the House of Commons.

We will see that auto sector grow in the future, undoubtedly, particularly the auto parts section. In 1982, we manufactured only 9.8 per cent of all auto parts in the North American market. In 1987, that number was up to 14 per cent, almost double, and the trend will continue. It is a trend from which the manufacturers of Durham riding will benefit. They know it and they have made that positive statement.

We have auto parts manufacturers in the riding of Durham located in Uxbridge, Port Perry, Bowmanville,

and several other towns and villages in the area. Those companies give jobs, very stable jobs, to the people of our area. They have grown to appreciate the industry and know just how important trade is to the local economy and their own livelihoods. Durham has much more than just an auto sector. We have a thriving manufacturing sector outside of the auto industry.

The Durham Region Manufacturers' Association has organized itself into an exciting group of people. Its members have marketing seminars for their several hundred members. They assist each other with management and export seminars. They have seen first-hand from the auto industry how aggressive salesmanship can help their companies. They are exporting now on a much wider scale than just in the auto industry. They have seen how the automobile industry has rationalized, specialized, and increased production. Believe me, that will continue to happen at an even greater pace as we go into the Free Trade Agreement.

I also stated earlier that agriculture is an important industry in our part of the country. We have some excellent farm land. Some farm families have been in the agricultural business for generations. Indeed, some of them have been there as long as Canada has been in existence as an organized country as we know it. We have seen, of course, the great debate in the agricultural sector relating to free trade. The attention in most of the daily media has been directed to those who were opposed to the deal, but a great many farmers are in favour of it.

This evening, in other speeches, members have shown the tremendous support that is in existence for the Free Trade Agreement speaking on behalf of the agricultural sector, particularly the red meat, grains, bean farmers, fruit and vegetable sectors. All of them have been very strongly supportive of the agreement. It is interesting to note that the soybean growers of Canada recently met with their counterparts in the United States and agreed to ask their respective Governments to withdraw all tariffs immediately from soybeans and soybean products moving back and forth across our borders; they do not want them phased out over 10 years. They want them reduced immediately. That is the other side of the story in the agricultural industry, one that has had very little attention in the daily media. Most of our urban people do not realize the tremendous support that exists for this agreement in the agricultural area.

We have heard at great length what is going to happen to the food processing industry in Canada.