

With those November numbers now in, we know that in 8 of the first 11 months of 1992, our exports to the U.S. hit new monthly records. We are not talking about a one-shot surge, but a winning trend.

The advantage that the FTA gave us compared to other countries exporting to the U.S. is also a matter of fact. While Canadian exports to the U.S. grew by nearly 30 per cent, cumulatively, since the FTA was signed, Japan's exports to the U.S. grew by only 13 per cent; Germany's by 7.3 per cent, and the U.K.'s by 16.4 per cent.

According to Statistics Canada, 16 of 22 Canadian manufacturing industries have gained market share in the U.S., while 18 of 22 U.S. manufacturing industries have lost market share in Canada.

Our high technology exports to the U.S. grew by 63 per cent between 1988 and 1991, while our high-tech imports from the U.S. increased by only 12 per cent.

Figures such as those should prove that the FTA has helped us export to the U.S. and that we can compete there -- and win!

Blaming the FTA for "every sparrow that falls" has become a cottage industry for some people in this country, but the arguments don't stand up. Listen to what the C.D. Howe Institute concluded in its October 1992 study:

It seems clear that the recession has not been due to factors directly related to the FTA. Indeed, the facts so far are more consistent with the optimistic scenario of free trade supporters than with the views of detractors.... Free trade with the U.S. has helped the development of the higher value-added industries that are crucial to Canada's economic growth.... In particular, many of Canada's manufacturing sectors seem to have performed remarkably well in the U.S. market under the FTA.

But the critics' arguments go beyond economics and into dark regions of conspiracy and loss of sovereignty.

In light of the recent 11 per cent drop in the value of the Canadian dollar, I ask you, what happened to the critics' claims that a "secret protocol" existed to prop it up?

In light of U.S. calls to adopt Canadian-style medicare, what of the critics' claims that the FTA would lead to it being dismantled?

Where are the large-scale water exports that the critics predicted? And how is it that Canadian cultural industries are thriving, when the FTA was supposed to be our cultural nemesis?