

industries, which are going to make a very large and important part of any trade agreement, over and above merchandise trade. The provinces have the ability, then, to control agricultural products, resources, and service industries. Therefore, they must be part of any Canadian agreement, and we must put in place a ratification process.

Now, a lot of people say that's difficult. I say it is not difficult. I was part of the process leading up to First Minister's meetings in our country that set in place the way in which we would set the mandate, conduct the negotiations, and put that responsibility clearly onto the shoulders of the provinces and the federal government. In fact, because the provinces are meeting regularly, and the mandate for the Canadian position is going to come from the table of First Ministers, then they are part of the negotiation, the changing mandate, and ultimately at the end of the day they will bear some responsibility for the decision that is made. We have agreed in principle that there would be a flexible amendment that would not demand unanimity amongst the premiers, although such a constitutional amendment has not yet been devised, although we have the way we amend our constitution now as a guide.

We have agreed that we can make agreements and bind each other. So I believe that at the end of the day the provinces and the Canadian position will be far surer of ratification than I am that the U.S. position will be able to be ratified by the Congress. The Canadian side are part of the mandate,