

FIRST, THE TRAUMA OF CHANGE. LET US PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE. CANADA HAS BEEN REDUCING ITS TRADE BARRIERS STEP-BY-STEP SINCE THE BEGINNING OF GATT IN 1947. CANADIANS HAVE NOT ONLY SURVIVED THIS PROCESS - WE HAVE PROSPERED. A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE ANOTHER STEP IN THIS PHASED AND EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WHICH STARTED 40 YEARS AGO.

IF CANADIANS PROSPERED THROUGH SEVEN ROUNDS OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION, WHY WOULD THE NEXT STEP BE ANY DIFFERENT?

SECOND, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY. TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF CANADA TOOK PLACE IN THE LATE 1940's. ONE WAS THE CREATION OF THE GATT - THE START OF A TRADE LIBERALIZATION PROCESS THAT HAS CONTINUED TO THIS DAY.

THE OTHER WAS THE MASSEY ROYAL COMMISSION ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES - THE START OF A CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS THAT HAS ALSO CONTINUED TO THIS DAY.

THE TWO PROCESSES WENT HAND IN HAND; BECAUSE IT WAS THE PROSPERITY CREATED BY TRADE LIBERALIZATION THAT ALLOWED US TO CREATE IN THE 1950's, 60's, 70's AND 80's ALL THE INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS WHICH DEFINE US AS CANADIANS TODAY.

AND JUST AS TRADE LIBERALIZATION CONTINUES, THE CHALLENGE TO BUILD A NATIONAL IDENTITY CONTINUES TODAY. WE IN THIS GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZE THAT. WE HAVE SAID CLEARLY TO OUR NEGOTIATORS: THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE CANADIAN CULTURE IS NON-NEGOTIABLE.

WE WANT A COUNTRY WHOSE PEOPLE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER THROUGH THE ARTS AND POPULAR MEDIA. THE ESSENCE WHICH MAKES US CANADIANS CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE COMPROMISED.

BEFORE I CLOSE MY REMARKS, LET ME MAKE A FINAL POINT.

MR. SPEAKER, SO FAR I HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT OUR TWO-TRACK TRADE POLICY. LET ME NOTE ANOTHER ELEMENT IN OUR OVERALL TRADE STRATEGY: THAT IS THE NEED TO SEEK NEW EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES.