We, as the Chairman said a few moments ago, are proven world leaders in telecommunications, in transportation, in other fields of the next century. There is no one better. Here is one example: you know the reputation of Hong Kong for high technology capacity. Well, we sell microchips to Hong Kong. There are countless other examples.

We are on the leading edge of many of the new technologies that are going to provide the jobs and the growth of the future.

But we need a larger market. Just look at this fact: of the industrialized countries in the world with whom we compete, only Australia has a smaller domestic market. In a world in which the advantage goes to countries producing for mass markets, a small domestic market means that you are a step behind the competition.

Canada has the skills. We have got the self-confidence. We don't yet have the market. But we will find it in the area where most of our trading has been done. We are going to find it by securing and improving access to the markets that exist in the United States.

For better, or for worse, seventy-five percent of our exports go to the United States. More than 20 percent of theirs come to us. Between us, Canada and the United States do more than $150 billion in trade each year. That's 50 percent more trade than the United States does with Japan. Canada and the United States, in fact, represent by far the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world.

A fair bilateral trading agreement with the United States will open up opportunities for Canadian industry to access a market of more than 200 million people.

That is the key to our ability to compete. That is the key to our ability to create jobs that are essential to the future of a country like ours.

Now, naturally enough some people approach these questions in fear. They think that in any negotiation Canada is going to be outsmarted. That attitude simply sells Canada short. We are too strong for that. This country can meet the best in the world and this country can beat the best in the world.