

implement international trade treaties. In practice, Congress delegates this power to the President and his officials.

Congress recognizes that any agreement reached internationally should be the same agreement that is voted on in the United States. Fast-track negotiating authority therefore requires Congress to vote on the treaty's implementing legislation within a fixed deadline. Second, Congress cannot reopen the treaty because an "all or nothing" vote is required on the package as a whole. Congress cannot pick and choose.

President Bush recently requested a two-year extension of fast-track negotiating authority. If neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate disapproves before June 1, 1991, the fast-track procedure will apply for another two years.

There is no guarantee that Congress will automatically grant the President a two-year extension of fast-track negotiating authority. If President Bush fails to attain his negotiating authority, both the Mexican and GATT trade liberalization exercises could be placed in serious jeopardy.

During the next six weeks of the fast-track extension process, the Bush Administration will be under considerable pressure to bow to congressional demands for increased protectionism. Stay tuned for the interesting headlines that will be coming out of Washington in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we will continue to make sure that Canadians receive the full benefits of the FTA.

As Canada approaches the twenty-first century, we must prepare ourselves for increased competition here at home and abroad. If we fail to meet the challenges of the global economy, our prosperity will suffer the consequences. We cannot afford to ignore reality.

To ensure we are prepared for the future, we have adopted a three-pronged international trade strategy and we will continue to do whatever is necessary to help those who want to compete.

We will help exporters by negotiating international treaties to increase access to foreign markets and assisting them with innovative trade development programs.

We will help our workers by integrating effective adjustment measures in our treaties and developing effective job training and adjustment programs.

And we will help our farmers by standing firm in the GATT negotiations and fighting for our rights in trade disputes.