

yesterday when I heard Members on the opposite side of the House say that this agreement would prevent the institution of another national energy program. For the people of my riding that is a very good reason for supporting the Free Trade Agreement. We do not want another national energy program.

The National Energy Program and the PGRT absolutely devastated small Canadian-owned oil companies in my constituency. Several Canadians lost a lot of money and a lot of faith in government with those two programs. They are getting that faith and confidence back. The entrepreneurs in the Alberta oil patch have started over again. I talked to several of these people throughout the election campaign, and they told me emphatically that they do not need nor do they want Governments telling them how to run their business. They want the opportunity to compete fairly. They want the market that will be secured by the Free Trade Agreement.

The Free Trade Agreement confirms each country's commitment to move toward a liberalized investment climate. Canada will retain important rights to monitor foreign investment. In energy, takeovers of healthy Canadian companies by foreigners are prohibited.

Both Governments have agreed to apply the respective rules and regulations to everyone, regardless of their country of origin. In other words, the Americans will not discriminate against Canadian companies doing business in the United States simply because they are Canadian and vice versa.

Each Government, however, retains the right to establish whatever safety standards or environmental regulations it wishes. Those who want to do business in Canada will have to play by Canadian rules. Provisions for national treatment do not and will not apply to social programs or medical services, regardless of what the Opposition would try to have us believe.

The Free Trade Agreement confirms our commitment to the principles of GATT and the International Energy Agency. This means only that when we cut back production we will allow the Americans a chance to bid on a proportion of remaining production. We do not have to give our energy away, but in times of international shortage we will not turn our back on our neighbour and our best customer, either.

We still retain the right to provide government incentives for exploration and development of our energy resources, but perhaps the greatest achievement of our Free Trade Agreement is its creation of a secure

trading environment. With the elimination of tariffs and a commitment to national treatment, cross border trade will undoubtedly increase. Since 85 per cent of our energy exports go to the United States, it is essential that we secure access to that market.

Secure access will lead to more investment. This will result in the development of large scale energy projects like the one announced last week by the Caroline Area Gas Producing Group in my riding. It plans to invest \$600 million to build a natural gas refinery, employing over 1,400 construction workers and ultimate employment for 150 people. There was the announcement by the Minister for International Trade yesterday that the Joffre plant just outside my constituency will be expanded with a third phase by Novacor. It is another investment of a half billion dollars. It will have very positive and long lasting effects on my constituency.

These projects require a staggering amount of capital in order to be built, in fact more capital than Canada alone can provide. A stable trading environment will encourage investors to plan for a longer term. This will mean more money spent in Canada, more jobs, and greater prosperity for Canadians.

I find it amazing that in my constituency there are so many examples of positive reactions to the re-election of the Conservative Government and the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement, and that people sitting in the Opposition can only find doom and gloom about it.

This agreement offers Canadians an opportunity to become more than hewers of wood and drawers of water. Lower tariffs, secure access to large markets, and more investment will promote diversification. We will be able to refine our natural resources right here in Canada and sell the refined products abroad, rather than ship out raw materials. This means more jobs and better jobs for Canadians.

Another example from my constituency is Sun Pine Forest Products. It is planning a huge expansion of its timber processing business, in anticipation of an increased market in the United States. It is building an 80 million board foot sawmill near Rocky Mountain House. It will include a chipper, planer mill, dry kilns, a CCA treatment plant, and a fibre board plant. Some \$32.5 million will be invested to create 267 long-term jobs. Estimates are that over 600 construction jobs will be created and 530 indirect jobs. Sun Pine's payroll will be over \$17 million a year. This kind of investment will have a profound impact on our local economy. It is a