

Now, when you build that better mousetrap, you can go to San Diego or Seattle to sell it, return to set it up, and even send your technician to fix it if it breaks.

The Free Trade Agreement brings more certainty and increased access to the American market for B.C.'s primary resources. The Free Trade Agreement removes border barriers for the export of crude oil, natural gas and hydro-electricity. And it specifically provides for continued negotiations to gain access for B.C. electricity in the California market. It provides a fairer method of resolving disputes, so we won't have a repeat of the problems of the softwood tariff.

The Free Trade Agreement will lower prices and increase job opportunities for all British Columbians. It will give you the opportunity to be as good as you can be.

Let me speak as a Western Canadian. One other major change that we can achieve with this national Progressive Conservative Government is to take advantage of the opportunity for Western Canada to become a full and equal partner in governing Canada. That involves changing the way the country looks at the West, and changing the way the West looks at Canada.

You can take two views in politics. One is to throw the rascals out, and their policies with them. That has generally been the guiding purpose of national voters in Western Canada. We voted against FIRA, against the National Energy Program, against freight rates, against tariffs. We were usually in Opposition, and we acted that way, and came gradually to have a negative view of politics and, worse, a sense of grievance about the country, and a suspicion of its institutions. Our politics were defined by what we were against.

The other approach to politics is to use the system positively, to achieve your own goals. Other regions have done that historically; so in this age of special interest politics, have groups with a particular goal - environmentalists, activists on behalf of equality for women, advocates of multiculturalism. Often, these goals have been laudable; usually the regions which use the system constructively have legitimate interests to advance. The distinction is not in the quality of goals - the distinction is between pursuing them positively and pursuing them negatively.