

people realize. We actually began to look at the possibility of some sort of trade agreement between the two countries back in the '83-'84 period, under the Liberal government. Back then we were talking about something sectoral free trade. We were gonna take a bunch of sectors and try to negotiate agreements and then pull it all together. And one wonders if we had done enough sectors, pulled it all together, would it be the comprehensive agreement we're talking about today or not? Only time will tell.

What we are trying to negotiate now, you hear it called comprehensive or free trade or freer trade or enhanced trade. I'm not sure what the best word is, but the bottom line for us, there's a Washington phrase, I apologize, is that we are trying to dismantle as many barriers as we can between the two countries. We're trying to bring some security, some predictability to the trading relationship, and we're also trying to enter new territory. When we talk about establishing rules of the road in new areas such as trade and services, intellectual property, investment, we're talking about areas that have never been brought under any international discipline before. So what the United States is looking at here is not only the most extensive historic agreement from a bilateral perspective, but I would argue we're talking about going further and into new areas where we have never even attempted to go yet in the multilateral forum of the GATT in Geneva, the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade. We are starting a process there, we're going to be getting into a lot of the same issues, and in fact we have an