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government. As a result of that, we have a stronger economy and a better balanced economy as we move into a global recessionary context.

I am very pleased to be able to raise a number of issues in this debate that go beyond what the hon. member has raised. He has talked essentially about macroeconomic policy, interest rates, deficits, and so on, and I have dealt with that.

Let us go beyond that to the actual mechanics of how we increase international trade in this great country of ours. We have trouble with the NDP and the Liberals on this, but we have to realize that markets around the world are becoming increasingly integrated. In other words, we cannot operate in isolation in Canada. We have to integrate ourselves with world markets and be competitive in that integrated context.

Therefore, I want to speak for a few minutes today about what we are trying to do as a government to support Canadian exporters around the world. Canada as we know is a leading trading country in the world, but in many ways our trading performance outside of agriculture, automobiles, and automobile parts has not been that vigorous. We as a country have to strengthen our economy throughout in order to make us an exporting power. To do that there has been a number of very exciting programs that I want to make reference to.

This month is Canada International Trade Month. It was announced last week by the Minister for International Trade. This announcement was a way to try to sensitize Canadians to the importance of exports and the importance of international trade for Canada. It flows from something else and that is our national trade strategy which was established, not just by our government, but by first ministers in the country in 1985.

The hon. member will be interested to hear that that strategy had three objectives. The first is to secure and enhance access to foreign markets—the first ministers all agreed to this. Let us secure access to foreign markets, of course the FTA is crucial to that, as is GATT. The second objective is to improve our trade competitiveness. All first ministers, together with the Government of Canada, wanted to make us more competitive and our programs flow from that. The third objective is to strengthen our international marketing efforts. As

Minister of State for Tourism, I recognize the tremendous importance of marketing to sell the image of our country, but marketing is very important for almost all segments of our economy, and that too was recognized as part of this strategy.

To do this I think hon. members will remember the government proposed a two track policy to accomplish that strategy. One track was multinational through the Uruguay Round of trade liberalization. I had the honour of representing the Government of Canada at those negotiations with the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I remember the week in Punta del Este very well. It was rainy, just like today, all week long. The meetings were held in a gambling casino. Maybe that is where trade meetings should be held. It was very difficult to tell whether we would ever end up with an agreement.

Our government worked very hard, together with the Cairns group and others, to help break the log jam on services and agriculture and to promote trade liberalization on goods and textiles. We now are into the fourth year as a result of that Uruguay Agreement. It still, however, difficult to tell whether we are going to end up this January 1 with the kind of agreement we hoped for in the Uruguay Round. The government is giving all the leadership it possibly can to help bring that about.

The other track we looked at, of course, was the more controversial one of the free trade agreement. As a result of the free trade agreement, we secured and enhanced our access to the American market. I shudder to think what we would have done in the last year and a half without that agreement when we had unilateral American actions. A good example is pork. There was a ruling just last week that said that the Department of Commerce research and positioning on pork was not accurate or tenable. Therefore, based on that research, they could not proceed.

That sort of good news for Canada would never have been possible without the dispute settlement mechanism of the bilateral trade agreement. Not only was the dispute settlement mechanism which allows the country one-tenth the size of another country to have equality accomplished, but it has also produced a much more vigorous and competitive economy and, of course, we have had 250,000 jobs created since the agreement was signed.