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blocks made of Japan, the European Common Market and the United States? On last October 3rd, Canada was the only industrialized country with no access to a market of 250 million people.

We know that Canada will never be absorbed by any other country as long as Canadians want to live in a country of their own. We know also that Canada, thanks to freer trade after World War II, grew as a stronger and more independent country than ever before. There is no reason why the gradual and wise implementation of a trade deal with the United States would not be the catalyst we so desperately need to reach greater heights.

Free trade will in no way destroy the common values shared by all Canadian men and women. We took great care to exclude from the accord all factors that could affect our cultural industries, social programs and other elements considered essential to our national identity. I sincerely believe that we should not think only in terms of immediate costs and benefits and look for mere band-aid solutions to present irritants. That way of thinking has been inflicted on us only too often by previous Liberal administrations.

Mr. Speaker, I have stated a few times that this Agreement does not only recognize our economic interplay but further reflects our social and political differences. So, logically, there is something in it for every region of this country. As a minister and a member of Parliament representing a Quebec constituency, I have naturally taken a special interest in the benefits that that province will be able to derive from our deal with the United States. I can tell you right away that Quebec is one of the regions that will benefit most from the free trade Agreement.

In fact, lower tariffs will favor the processing of Canadian resources to be exported, thus creating jobs and new investments in Canada. These lower tariffs will correct a situation that has been lasting for generations and that, as a ball and chain, always slowed down the economic growth of Quebec.

Finally, all serious economist foresee a drop in consumer prices and in manufacturing costs to our industries. After complete implementation of the free trade Agreement, we expect the purchasing power of consumers, including those from Quebec, of course, will increase by 3 to 12 percent as a result of increased competition on most markets. In clear terms, this means that thousands of Canadian and Quebec families will be able to acquire more goods with their money and to have a more decent life, above poverty level.

As for Quebec itself, Mr. Speaker, the energy Agreement removes for good the threat of American embargos affecting Hydro Quebec exports. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Quebec's economic future depends largely on the development of new hydraulic resources and on the sale of hydro power to potential customers, and the New England states are the most directly concerned. The energy agreement will greatly facilitate our negotiations with states interested in securing our surplus

hydro-electric power. Here again, there is great potential for employment creation in the near, medium and long term.

As promised, the Agreement does not interfere with marketing boards for agricultural products, eggs and poultry. Canada retains the right to decide what kinds of agricultural marketing programs are appropriate. This should help to reassure certain agricultural organizations in Quebec which, in our view, have been too quick to react to the intentional scare tactics of my Liberal and NDP colleagues. This type of useless rhetoric will do no good for Quebec agriculture. Certain provisions of the Agreement will, however. For example, potato growers and hog and cattle feeders who export to the United States will benefit from an absence of tariffs and a much stronger guarantee of access to the American market.

There will be a mutual exemption from legislative restrictions applying to meat imports in both countries. We should keep in mind that tariffs on fruit and vegetables will be phased out over a ten-year period. This will give Canadian farmers who must face American competition in Canada ample time to adjust. Moreover, Canadian agriculture will get more protection since the trade deal gives Canada the right to temporarily restore tariffs on fruit and vegetables, over a twenty-year period, if prices fall. Quebec farmers must be persuaded, Mr. Speaker, that their industry not only will not be negatively affected by the Canada-U.S. trade deal, but that it will finally break out of the stagnation that it suffered because of captive markets with little if any prospect for growth.

Besides, let us not forget that two-thirds of Quebec pulp and paper exports are purchased by the U.S. Elimination of tariffs on these products will tremendously increase their competitiveness on the American market.

And what about our Montreal based engineering and consulting firms which have earned themselves a worldwide reputation, Mr. Speaker? To sell our expertise and our achievements in this area is one thing, but to provide a reliable customer service is another challenge. In the past, U.S. immigration regulations often prevented Canadians from working with their American clients in order to provide them with the after-sales services to which they are entitled. Under the new undertakings concerning temporary entry for business purposes, the people involved in our service industries, including our engineering consultants, will find it a lot easier from now on to enter the United States, to better serve their customers and therefore increase their sales volume.

Moreover, reference is also made to an increase in revenues of close to \$4 billion for Canadian industries which will have better access to the United States Government procurement contracts.

Now let us move on to the automotive industry, for which NDP tenor Bob White has voice so loud a concern that we must give him the reasoned reply he deserves. No one in the Government can explain Mr. White's attacks against this trade deal, or his predictions that the Auto Pact will meet an untimely end.