

**Excerpt**  
**Remarks at a news conference**  
**Canadian Minister of Industry Tony Clement**  
**At National Association of Manufacturers**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**May 20, 2009**

**CLEMENT:** The Canadian government is concerned about any impulses towards more “Buy America” and more protectionism. We see that as inconsistent with the President’s participation in and agreement with the G20 talks and other fora, international fora. It’s a consensus in the world that in order for us to get to the end of the world economy downturn, we need to resist protectionist pressures that we’re all facing, quite frankly, in all our jurisdictions.

We wish to work with the U.S. Administration and with Congress to make sure that this is not something that infringes upon Canada-U.S. trade agreement. We actually think it’s more injurious to American trade, to the health of U.S. trade, to allow these pressures to continued be acted out on.

**Q:** Is Congress essentially ignoring that, though?

**CLEMENT:** No. I would say that, you know Congress. It has a bunch of different people with a bunch of different attitudes to this issue and many other issues....Part of my role is to educate the Representatives and members of Congress about the Canadian position, why it’s important, why a proper understanding of their own self-interest would indicate and dictate that they would be with us in resisting the protectionist pressures.

What I found when I was dealing with Congress on the North American auto sector that you can be effective when you’re armed to the teeth with the facts as they exist on the ground – how integrated our economies are... Integration only works if it works for both sides. If it’s just a one-way street where it helps Canada and hurts the U.S., that’s not sustainable. Nor is it sustainable vice versa, but I think we’ve got some pretty good evidence over the last few years that it’s helpful to both sides with jobs, opportunities, trade, economic activity, and that’s the same kind of facts that I’m armed with to make the point that the “Buy American” provisions are not helpful to America.

**Q:** If it injurious, if it’s more injurious to American manufacturers than Canadian manufacturers, then why is it expanding? Why aren’t they seeing that it’s hurting them? Why is it cascading...

**CLEMENT:** I think this is something, that at times of economic distress, there’s a certain nativist element in all countries that are trading countries, that somehow this will be helpful. The evidence indicates that it is not the case, but it’s more or less automatic that these things do happen.

What we've got to do as political actors is to continue to educate the public, to continue to make sure that other aspects of our stimulus measures are effective and therefore can deal with some of the folks that are losing their jobs and losing their manufacturing base in their particular local economies. That's what driving this. So we've got to make sure that our economic plans are working, and at the same time, that is the best antidote along with education, to resisting some of these pressures.

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