

and herring and on wine - these same critics said "Ignore the GATT. Stand up for Canada. Don't let the GATT grab Canadian jobs." These Canadians are trapped in an old illusion, an old assumption which no longer applies. We cannot pick and choose our moments of international obligation. We can't exempt ourselves from international rules when we don't like the rulings. Those rules aren't meant to be broken.

Let's look at another economic fact and another old assumption that we have to get rid of. We still tend to see ourselves as a nation of factories and farms. But in 1988, the agricultural sector accounted for only 3.6% of jobs in Canada. And the manufacturing sector amounted to 25%. Over 70% of the Canadian employment came from the service sector. That is an economic transformation of immense significance.

Yet look at the attitudes to the new federal sales tax. The existing sales tax - on manufactured goods - was predicated on an economy dominated by manufacturing. That domination no longer exists. If the Government is to be able to raise the revenue to reduce the deficit and fund programs, the sales tax it applies must reflect the economy of the country. So the GST lowers the rate and widens the coverage to include the service sector.

That seems to me to be straightforward. Of course, no one likes taxes. Politicians are seldom elected because of their stand on taxes unless that stand is to abolish them. But if taxes have to exist - to fund programs, to pay down the deficit - let's have taxes that make sense, taxes that reflect the changing Canadian economy. To preserve a tax which is based on a shrinking manufacturing sector, and to preserve a tax which punishes Canadian traders when Canada is a trading nation is ridiculous. Yet the old illusions and old assumptions stand in the way of realism and common sense.

Whether it is the economic area or the area of linguistic rights or race relations, new attitudes and new perspectives are struggling to be reflected fairly. But at the same time, old attitudes sense that they are under assault and a vigorous rear-guard is launched. That is why the Association for the Protection of English in Canada has burst back into the CBC's eager spotlight. That is why political parties have been formed around the theme of "heritage".

I was at a NATO meeting in Tumberry, Scotland, 5 days ago. There, the British Foreign Secretary, talking about NATO said: "We have to be custodians of what we have accomplished, but we also have to be reformers." I sent him a note saying "In Canada, we call that being a Progressive Conservative" - and the need for that instinct in Canada has never been greater.

To know where we must go, we must know where we are and where we have come from. We can never forget that the existence of this country was not a given. That our history has been a continuous act of affirmation. That the building of Canada was a task accomplished against all odds - geographic, economic, demographic. That tending this community called Canada requires care. That it will not tolerate abandon. Nor will it tolerate intolerance. Canada won't work if we live in two solitudes - or ten or a hundred. The only way to avoid that is to get to know