

an approach that might be persuaded in unpragmatic ways right across the board.

CBC: Mr. Pawley says the companies affected will have to realize the benefits of free trade will far outweigh the disadvantages.

The next step is up to Ottawa. The western premiers want the federal government to decide by this fall whether it will try to negotiate a free trade deal with Washington. As we hear from Brian Kelleher, Ottawa appears favourable to the idea.

BK: The federal Minister of Trade, James Kelleher, says the consensus clearly is building in Canada for an agreement that would liberalize trade with the United States. Mr. Kelleher says he was extremely interested to hear the decision of the western premiers, it certainly makes it easier to make a decision, he says, when it appears that consensus is developing. And he was somewhat surprised that Premier Pawley of Manitoba joined in the call for free trade since Manitoba, he says, had seemed to have some of the same doubts that Ontario has. Mr. Kelleher will not commit the federal government to complete free trade as yet, he does not expect a final Cabinet decision until September. The extent to which trade should be freed up, he says, will be determined both by further consultation and by studies on how various Canadian industries would adjust to freer, or free, trade.

MINT: We're doing indepth studies on the various sectors in Canada and we don't have all the complete data at this point and I think that the answer to that question will become clearer as the studies are completed.

BK: Mr. Kelleher says there's absolutely no doubt that Canadians do want trade with the United States both secured and enhanced in some way, and his comment that he's extremely interested in the western premiers' decision does not seem to indicate any hostility to the complete free trade option in as many industries as possible. Brian Kelleher, CBC News.

CBC: One group determined to fight free trade is the Council of Canadians. It's a nationalist organization which is opposed to closer ties with the U.S. It argues that Canada could lose its independence.

Last night, the group held a meeting in Toronto to drum up support. Elaine Sheman was there.