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Toronto Star Oct. 31/84

The Star cited approvingly the arguments of Eddie Goodman, adviser to Premier William Davis, on the dangers of sectoral free trade with the U.S. Among these are the discouragement of Canada's own technology and entrepreneurial innovation within Canada. The Star said that although it was important for Canada to have access to the massive U.S. market--accounting for 70 per cent of Canadian exports, it was vital that Canada not make basic changes before thoroughly debating whether such changes would really benefit Canada...

Globe and Mail Nov. 11/84

The Globe took exception to a U.S. move to hamper imports of certain steel products and urged that the regulation be rescinded.

Vancouver Sun Nov. 20/84

The Sun was unenthusiastic about any sudden leap into a free trade arrangement with the U.S. The auto pact approach was a better way to work on free trade than the sort of leap envisaged by Donald Macdonald, chairman of the federal economic commission. If an agreement did not contain safeguards, the "dominant partner is bound to come out on top." The Sun suggested those who argued that the EEC was an example for Canada to follow ignore the fact that there was no direct parallel between the strongest and weakest members of the European community and the vast differences between Canada and the U.S. "The dream remains attractive, but the reality holds little practical advantage if Canada wishes to remain a sovereign state."

Montreal Gazette Nov. 20/84

The Gazette felt that even if the economists could agree on what free trade would mean, fears remain about the political consequences. "Canadians would want proof that free trade was not annexation in a Trojan horse..." The Gazette cited a number of areas such as industrial policies, environmental rules, subsidization policies or even currencies which might be affected or synchronized in a free trade framework. Because of the relative size of the two countries there was a real danger that Canada would be outweighed in such decisions.

Toronto Star Nov. 22/84

The Star, adhering to its earlier firm position, maintained free trade between Canada and the superpower to the South was an "idea whose time should never come." The huge disparity in the size of the respective economies guaranteed that elimination of all tariff and most non-tariff barriers to the shipment of goods between the two countries would only hurt Canada. The greatest price Canada would have to pay for free trade--beyond economic damage--would be a loss of political autonomy, the Star said. The Americans would have the right to object to made-in-Canada environmental standards, transportation arrangements, regional industrial development incentives and other strictly internal policies.