

P. WHAT KINDS OF THINGS?

A lot of money is being put into training, retraining.

Q. DO YOU SEE ANY LINK BETWEEN FREE TRADE AND THE GOVERNMENT GEARING UP FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE OR ARE THOSE THINGS SEPARATE IN YOUR MIND?

They have to combine eventually if they aren't now.

I don't see any benefits so far, just from what I've seen on the news and that.

P. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT INTERNATIONAL TRADE DO YOU THINK OF THAT AS SEPARATE FROM FREE TRADE OR IS THAT COMBINED?

They're linked.

P. HOW COME NOBODY SAID IT WHEN I ASKED ABOUT IT OPEN ENDED, THAT MAKES ME THINK THAT THEY'RE NOT?

Well, if you're going to become more competitive to penetrate American markets then that competitiveness should allow you to penetrate other markets.

I just figured you knew.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE CHANGES THAT THEY MADE TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, DO YOU THINK THAT'S RELATED TO TRADING OR NOT?

That hasn't passed yet. We got a memo at work today saying that it still hasn't passed through the Senate. It may just die.

P. IS THAT LINKED IN YOUR MIND TO TRADE OR DOES THAT SEEM TO BE SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT?

I wouldn't have thought about it but it's trying to focus the labour which has got a lot to do with free trade.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE GST, RELATED OR UNRELATED TO GETTING READY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE?

Related.

Very related.

Because it affects the costs of our merchandise. The manufacturers' taxes go down to 7% from 13%. We pay more taxes for services like haircuts and that. So that will lower the cost of our goods.

Initially, it should be a clear benefit to trade.

Don't you think they're heading towards no income tax. We'll pay tax on every ruddy thing we use?

P. BEFORE YOU WALKED INTO THIS ROOM DID YOU THINK OF GST AS LINKED TO TRADE OR SEPARATE?