

When the negotiators met this week in Washington, there was little or no movement from the American side to meet our basic concerns.

That is when Ambassador Reisman suspended the talks. They were going nowhere.

This was seen in some circles as a negotiating ploy.

It was not. We are serious.

I sincerely hope the negotiators will be back at the bargaining table soon.

For it to happen, there must be some indication from the other side that they will address those basic concerns. Only then will we instruct our negotiators to return to the table.

I can report that discussions at various levels have taken place although we have yet to receive any proposals.

For Canadians, a fair and balanced agreement would stimulate output, improve productivity and create up to 350,000 jobs in Canada by 1995, according to the Economic Council of Canada. That is why the majority of Canadians support this initiative. They can see the opportunities in a balanced and fair agreement.

That is the Canadian side of the ledger. What about the U.S. side?

First, two million American jobs are on the line, jobs directly dependent on exports to Canada.

Second, America's trading future beyond North America is at stake. As The Economist pointed out this week, "America needs an agreement with Canada to demonstrate in the GATT round that countries can agree on trade rules covering services, investment and intellectual property."

Third, America's own export markets, both in Canada and off shore, is at risk.

If the U.S. Trade Bill is passed, Americans should expect their trading partners to enact mirror legislation to protect their own interests. Congress should remember that it plays a leadership role in the world economy and that what it does may well be copied elsewhere. Under mirror legislation the U.S. would find its own export activities affected on a number of fronts.