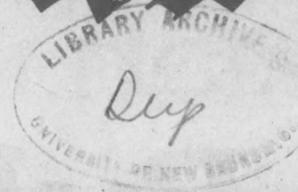


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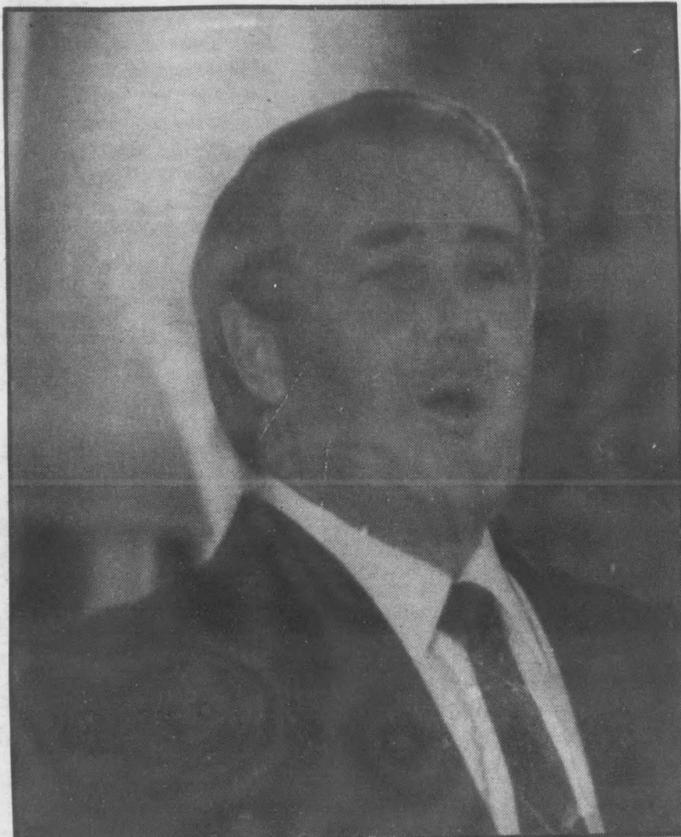


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Four More Years



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney

Photo by Jayde Mockler

56% of the Canadian electorate voted against the Mulroney government on Monday, but the Prime Minister has claimed a mandate to implement the Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

Professor Gary Allen of UNB's Political Science Department does not believe that the Conservatives have won the mandate they need to proceed with the deal. He says

Mulroney's interpretation of his mandate.

Craig Astle, Vice-President of the Young Progressive Conservatives of New Brunswick says "The Conservatives were elected with a clear majority in the House. The government has the mandate to implement the Free Trade Deal."

Glen McGuire, President of the New Democratic Party of New Brunswick concurs. "In our parliamentary system, the party that holds the majority of seats in the House has the mandate. It uses it to achieve its legislative aims. All political parties must accept the will of the majority."

President of the Young Liberals of New Brunswick, Peter O'Neill, has no problem with this concept, but adds "It is in Mulroney's best interests and in Canada's best interests for the government to be very cautious in its implementation of the deal and not slough off the concerns expressed by voters during the course of the campaign. His mandate is not only to implement the Trade Deal, but to address the concerns of all the people."

None of the parties are calling for a bonafide national referendum on the Free Trade issue, or for blocking the passage of the bill through parliament. Mr McGuire says "Our method of blocking it now would only serve to slow down, not to stop it." He continues, "It will be a good ten years before it is totally implemented. We have a couple of more shots at them." He sees

the role of the opposition in the interim as to "act as watchdogs, make sure that the government in power does not sell our country."

With free trade almost a fait accompli, many Atlantic Canadians are wondering what is to become of them, especially in light of the fact that their representation in the House of Commons will mainly be on the opposition side.

Mr. Astle is optimistic about the future of his fellow students in Atlantic Canada. "People of the Atlantic region were taken under the wing of scaremongering during the course of the election. They have ignored the historical fact that Atlantic Canada has always benefitted greatly from North-South trading arrangements."

Prof. Allen does not share this optimism. He sees the announcement this week by Gillet Inc. that it plans to close two plants in Quebec as a harbinger of things to come. "We are going to see a lot more of American manufacturing subsidiaries in Canada packing their bags and moving back across the border."

Prof. Allen says that the passage of the Free Trade Deal will change the shape of Canada, making the economy more purely market driven. As such, trade will be based on the comparative advantage one partner has over the other in the production of goods. Canada's comparative advantage is natural resources, which is a capital intensive rather than labour intensive industry. Prof. Allen foresees a shrinkage in the Atlantic job market as relatively stable, high paying jobs in the manufacturing sector are replaced by relatively unstable, low paying jobs in the service sector.



Protesters Picketing Mulroney's Visit Last Week

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