

Focus Groups - Vancouver
April 19, 1990

INTRODUCTIONS:

Thomas, I'm from Scandanavia originally. I ended up in Canada about fifteen years ago. I custom make camera equipment for press photographers and photo journalists. I used to be one myself. I've been married for 23 years, no kids and one cat. I've lived in Vancouver from '75 to '82 and then in Paris, Toronto, Australia and now back here.

Terry, I've lived in Vancouver for almost 17 years. I came from England. I work in local government administration. I enjoy classical music, opera. I like travel, I just got back from Romania.

Cindy, I am a kindergarden teacher but I'm at home right now with a 14 month old baby and another one on the way in September. My hobbies are classical piano, sewing. I'm very domestic, I like gardening. I grew up in the interior of BC and haven't lived anywhere else. My husband is a student right now so we're living on the bare necessities. I probably should be working but I enjoy being at home too much.

Betty, I'm married to an ex-commercial airline pilot. I have two sons, 24 and 21, one just recently married. I work for a chain store near Vancouver. I've been there for 36 years. I've been married for 30. I enjoy sewing, gardening, walking...I have my mother-in-law living with me who's 81 years old and I look after her.

Sonia, I work at the airport. I don't plan to get married too soon. I like music, I wouldn't mind travelling more.

Darryl, I'm a school teacher, I teach languages. I have two kids, both of them married, one of them lives in Texas. I do a lot of tennis and walking.

Monty, I'm a musician, I've worked professionally for about five years. I've lived in the east end of Vancouver for about the same number of years. I like to play with other musicians. We play country, irish jigs, originals and all kinds of stuff. I play a six string acoustic guitar.

Diane, I've lived here all my life except when I went to Alberta to take psychiatric nursing. I'm hopelessly single, no cats, no kids, working on the kids thing. I like to walk a lot and hike, stay in youth hostels and that kind of stuff.

Frank, I've been retired for eight years. I've been a steam engineer and an automotive mechanic. Married for 46 years, at the moment we have four grandchildren. My hobby is singing with the glee club. I sang with them for over twenty years and was the tenor soloist. Four years ago I had to have an operation on my throat and never got my voice back again. I love to golf, I'm a pretty fair pool player and I love swimming.

Q. WHEN YOU THINK OF YOUR HOMES, YOUR FAMILIES, YOUR JOBS, THE VANCOUVER REGION - AT ANY ONE OF THOSE LEVELS - WHAT FOR YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ISSUES WHICH YOU WILL BE FACING IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS?

GST, house taxes, consumer purchases in order to survive, medicare, more homes for the elderly, education.

The competition facing the BC industry from Japan, the common market in Europe. I don't think that BC has the _____ to handle it.