

SUFFERED SEVERELY FROM A BRAIN DRAIN TO THE UNITED STATES. WE RUN A REAL RISK OF LOSING THE BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF OUR YOUNGER GENERATION IF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS ALLOWED TO SIGNIFICANTLY BROADEN AS A RESULT OF MAINTAINING A SMALL PROTECTED MARKET THAT INHIBITS ECONOMIC INNOVATION, GROWTH AND PROSPERITY. SUCH A RESULT IS UNLIKELY TO ENHANCE OUR SOVEREIGNTY, HOWEVER THAT ELUSIVE CONCEPT IS DEFINED.

IF FREE TRADE RESULTS IN A LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY, ASK THE NEW ZEALANDERS HOW THEY ARE MAKING OUT WITH AUSTRALIANS, OR THE AUSTRIANS OR SWEDES WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT. EVEN IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WHERE A MEASURE OF POLITICAL INTEGRATION HAS BEEN CONSCIOUSLY UNDERTAKEN, ONE NEVER HEARS THE DANES OR THE DUTCH COMPLAIN THAT THEIR CULTURE IS BEING TEUTONIZED OR ANGLICIZED AS A RESULT OF A COMMON COMMERCIAL MARKET.

THE AGREEMENT INITIALLED EARLIER THIS MONTH WAS AN IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT, BUT THERE ARE STILL MANY HURDLES TO JUMP BEFORE IT COMES INTO FORCE.