

Sovereignty non issue in trade deal?

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competition haven't tried to compete.

"Your need to assert your sovereignty by reaching out, not by hiding out.

"While we have been pursuing free trade with the U.S., we have been doing things distinct from, sometimes counter to U.S. foreign policy. I make this point because the charge has been made that a free trade will undermine our ability to have a distinct foreign policy."

"I'm spending a week in central America. It's instructive to note that in Central America, the United States is regarded as a source of the problem, and we are regarded as part of the solution. We've maintained our development assistance

programs in Central America while we worked out a free trade agreement.

"When George Shultz announced a trade embargo against Nicaragua, I announced that we would not take part."

"Then there is UNESCO. The United States withdrew, Britain withdrew, we were under pressure to withdraw. We did not. We did this while negotiating a free trade arrangement.

"In South Africa for years the U.S. was dedicated to constructive engagement....Canada followed a different course, an independent course, simultaneous with negotiating a free trade arrangement.

"On the record, on the evidence, there has not been a limitation on our ability to express ourselves in

an independent way."

"There are two developments which put Canada to the test. One of those is protectionism. Not just in Canada, but also the world. Ask any grain farmer who is trying to sell his grain to traditional markets and has to deal with the heavily subsidized exports of the European Economic Community....ask anybody in the timber industry....

"The second reality is competition. Gradually this country was falling behind its competition. We were losing markets. We had our own priorities in Canada....

"Our eye was not on trade, while other countries were focusing on trade. We were gradually falling back....And the United States, our largest market, was becoming high-

ly competitive....

This is why a major priority of the Government has been fairer rules, not just with the U.S., but around the world.

"But if you are a nation that depends on trade, there is no point building up your trading relations with the smallest parts of the markets if you ignore your largest market. Like it or not, the United States is our largest trading partner."

"Former Prime Minister Trudeau embarked upon the 'third option' diverting trade to Europe....It failed. Why is that? Geography. We're next door to one another. It's logical we trade. That's not something we're going to be able to wish away. What we do is make the best of it.

"Most of the countries we compete with have access to markets of a hundred million people or more. The E.E.C. does, Japan does, the U.S. does. You don't develop world scale industries without world scale markets. We have to find access to

these markets. That is why the arrangement with the United States...."

Reaction from the audience afterwards was mixed.

"I don't think any questions were answered. He's a very glib politician," said audience member Martin Langevin.

"Thought it was very good. Joe Clark is a good man," said Brendon Carr, a first year Law Student.

"He said nothing," said Teri Pannewitz.

"The speech went very well....

Clark clarified that free trade is a good deal....I'm not just speaking as a member of the Conservative party," said Andrew Robertson, a first year arts student.

The forum was a joint effort between the campus Progressive Conservatives, the Banff Student Business Seminar club, and the International Relations and Strategic Studies Club.

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