

## Transition period cited

James D. Fleck (Chairman, Fleck Manufacturing Inc.) and M. Wallace McCutcheon (Professor of Business-Government Relations, University of Toronto) argued that it was a politically feasible moment for both countries to negotiate and legislate a free trade treaty. But such a treaty must have a transitional period and dispute resolution mechanisms.

Adjustment assistance for displaced workers would be essential. But even more energy should be devoted to trying to provide an economic climate that encourages and nurtures newborn jobs.

Mr. Fleck and Professor McCutcheon said Canada should continue to give strong support to multilateral trade liberalization and make a commitment to participate in the next round of GATT negotiations.

## Benefits uncertain

Professor Mel Watkins (University of Toronto) rejected the logic of free trade proponents who concede political costs for Canada but insist on economic benefits.

Professor Watkins maintained that not only are economic benefits uncertain but they are especially uncertain when the political capacity to create them is itself being undermined.

Professor Watkins proposed an alternative set of economic policies: to move to secure the Canadian market for Canadian producers; to use access to the Canadian market as a bargaining chip to get multinationals to produce more in Canada; to enhance domestic content arrangements -- in effect to put in place an