

which threatens retaliatory measures against any country that has a trade surplus with the U.S. That includes Canada.

Currently, Canada and the U.S. have no agreement on trade except in some sectors such as automobiles. Therefore, the U.S. can slap just about any tariff on us that it wants, and has threatened to do so with the previously mentioned omnibus trade legislation. This is the real reason for the Free Trade Agreement. With the FTA, Canada and the U.S. have agreed on a set of rules by which the trade game is to be played, thereby protecting our special trading relationship.

The first thing the deal does is guarantee that if Canada removes tariffs on most articles for U.S. producers in the Canadian market, then the U.S. will remove tariffs on the same goods for Canadians in the U.S. market. Fair and square. Canada has not lost control of anything. Ottawa will still call the shots in the Canadian market. What we have promised to do is apply the same rules to both American and Canadian producers.

So if the deal is so good, then why has it been falsely misaligned? (sic) Simply because the opposition will say anything to win.

John Luimes
Business I

Energy expanded

Re: Energy an issue (Nov. 10)
Bullshit blizzard (Nov. 10)

To Andrew Bizon: You obviously have no comprehension of the Free Trade Agreement. I tried to touch on some issues and I did it quite generally. Since you want to talk about energy, so be it.

The whole purpose of the Agreement is that we want to sell our resources. If we don't sell them, then they sit in the ground somewhere, basically useless. What the FTA effectively does, however, is allow us to make our petrochemical products and related items in Canada and ship them to the U.S. tariff free. Before the FTA, we just shipped off our natural resources, and the jobs that go with the production and use of those resources, into the U.S.

With the FTA, Alberta actually has more control over its resources. What we are so called "locked" into are existing con-

tracts that cannot be broken. I suppose Mr. Bizon would like us to run around breaking signed contracts; Canada would really look good in the eyes of the world if that happened. The export level is in the event of a shortage. The U.S. would be legally entitled to the levels of exports that they had been receiving in the preceding 36 months. Mr. Bizon obviously has no comprehension of the International Energy Agreement, which comes into place in the event of a shortage and takes precedence over the FTA. The IEA provides for the world sharing of oil, and Canada, the U.S. and 18 other countries have all signed it.

As for pricing of the oil, we can charge the Americans whatever price we want to. If a farmer owns his mineral rights, he can charge anything he wants for the rights for that company to drill on his land. If this issue is too complex for my mind to encompass, then I would hate to see the state of your mind, Mr. Bizon.

To Ed Vickers, I have to say that your party is responsible for a large portion of the bullshit that is being spouted right now. Your Liberal leader is just jealous because he didn't get to negotiate the FTA himself. You accuse us of using the "trust me" line but Turner is using it a lot more because he doesn't have an alternative to all the great things that the Tory government has done. Talk about western alienation with a Liberal government. The acronyms NEP, PGRT, FIRA come to mind. Your letter amused me Ed. Let's have one of those cheap drinks sometime.

Randy Kerr
Arts III

Foam unbecoming

Free Trade is NOT the only issue surrounding this coming election, and as conscientious voters, we should NOT limit our voting considerations to free trade

alone. Yet overzealous nationalists seem to insist on turning the free trade issue into a Mexican cockfight that WILL decide our next government, and the whole situation reeks of emotionalism. Anti-traders are screaming "betrayal," John Turner is blathering billion-dollar promises, and this next election looks like it's going to be decided by whoever has the loudest horn, the most patriotic speech, and the most foam at his mouth.

Just the other day, a union worker from an electric-component manufacturer threatened to strike me because I told him I was for free trade. I was completely diplomatic, but he was riled because his employer had started importing cheaper parts from the U.S. and six of his fellow workers lost their jobs. He refused to listen when it was explained to him that his employer was now a more competitive domestic producer because of this lowered overhead. He also refused to listen when I explained to him that even though some textile and electric consumer producers will cut back on their domestic labor under free trade, THIRTY THOUSAND EXTRA JOBS will be created in Alberta by the Trade Agreement over the next ten years. He still refused to listen to when I told him that Alberta's petrochemical sector will be the place to look for work because our export tariffs to the U.S., up to 18 percent for some petrochemicals, will be eliminated under the free trade, and if we can sell our oil to Americans without tariffs, Americans will buy our oil and gas in unprecedented amounts (even more than the 600 million dollars worth they bought from Alberta this previous year). This worker finally listened when I bought him a drink and told him that under the Trade Agreement, the price of alcohol would decrease and that the kinds of alcohol in the liquor store would increase.

Later that same day, I then got into another dispute, this time with the disillusioned daughter of

a pork farmer. She is voting against free trade because her "daddy is going to go under because the farmer's marketing boards are going to be abolished." Now where do you people get these ideas? Agricultural and livestock marketing boards will be totally unaffected by the Trade Agreement. In fact, Alberta beef growers will not have to pay tariffs imposed by the U.S. Meat Import Law, and Alberta beef and pork exports to the U.S. (totalling some 270 million dollars last year) will increase dramatically. THE U.S. BUYS MORE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS THAN ANY OTH-

ER BUYER IN THE WORLD. As it stands, for Alberta farmers to sell their products to Americans, they have to pay both import AND export tariffs and fees. If Canada implements the Trade Agreement, these tariffs and fees will be either removed or reduced, and Americans will buy Alberta livestock and crops like never before. No, your daddy will not lose his farm; he'll probably sell MORE livestock under the Trade Agreement.

So please, before the rest of you militant anti-traders out there file your teeth some more, would you mind giving the rest of us a break? Even though you may

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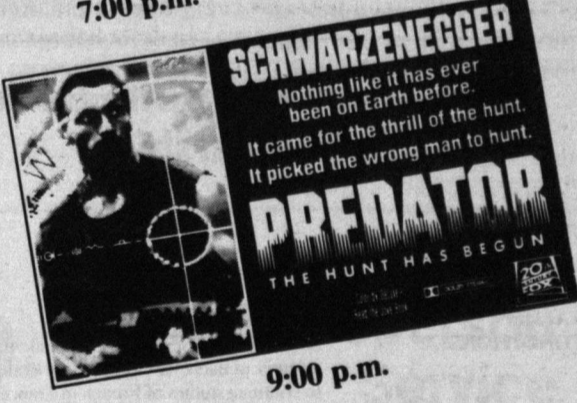
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