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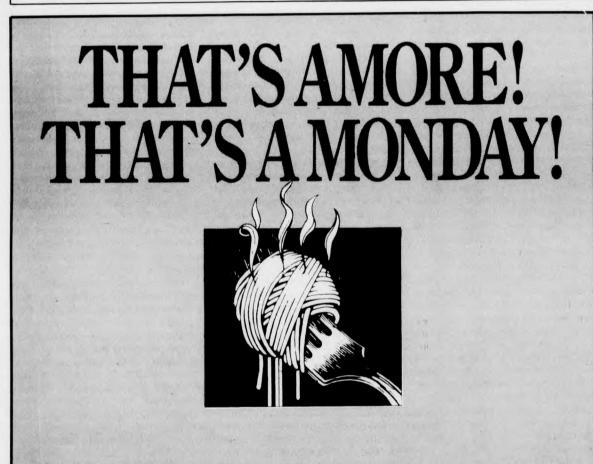
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NEWS Cont'd

US/Canada relations bode well for inking of free trade deal, Niles remarks

By ANDREW MARINIC

A successful record of resolving disputes between the US and Canada will enable the two countries to soon come to a free trade agreement, according to Thomas Niles, US ambassador to Canada.

Niles spoke about Canada/US trade relations to about 50 people, including York MBA alumni, at a seminar named in honour of Dr. James Gillies, founding dean of the Faculty of Administrative Studies, last week.

The excellent consultative process which has existed between Canada and the US, has allowed the two countries to create such landmark accomplishments as the Gulf of Maine agreement in 1984, the Great Lakes agreement, and even a brief free trade agreement in the late 1800s. Niles feels this has not only set an example of a successful working consultative process for the rest of the world, but is also indicative of a special bilateral uniqueness not common to other countries.

The ambassador emphasized that there are considerable differences between the perception that little is being accomplished in trade negotiations, and the reality of the situation. The press "has created a perception that the US has invoked protectionist trade policies against Canada," Niles said. "In reality this is not possible, since the US has a trade deficit of 170 billion dollars with Canada," he added.

In the controversial environmental areas, Niles pointed out the US' track record with such issues as acid rain. The Clean Air Act, he noted, was a successful attempt to control sulphur dioxide (SO_2) emissions. More recently, the electrical utilities in the US have installed nearly "50 billion dollars worth of scrubbers (an antipollution device) to reduce emissions."

Niles charged that these accomplishments have been largely ignored, and said, "we should be impressed by the money and effort the US has put in." He criticized the press' reports as often "incomplete and fragmented, on issues that are often enormously complicated and lengthy."

Looking to the future, the US has to deal with the clean coal technology program, SO_2 , and acid rain emissions. He said that President Ronald Reagan's intention to ask Congress to accept this program indicates the US's commitment to environmental issues.

Alan Hockin, Dean of Administrative Studies, later asked if Niles still foresees Canada being forced to follow US economic policies because of the exchange rate relationship. Niles said that the present dialogue between the two countries has been very effective, and the multilateral arrangements agreed upon by the finance ministers of the world's seven major capitalist nations, at accords the past two years "provided a successful mechanism to take account of views."

Niles was also asked if he saw any future change in the USSR's domination of Europe. His response was that we have to be cautious in any dealings with the East Bloc Countries. The status of Eastern Europe is a dynamic one, he said, adding that the US/USSR relationship is improving with the "... reinstallation of exchange programs, economic cooperation and the improvement on the USSR's behalf in the area of human rights." As for the rest of Europe, Niles mentioned that in terms of trade, the present trade policy of the EEC has been "neomercantile-wanting to sell everything and buy nothing." He hoped that these markets would eventually open up.

Ambassador Niles concluded that there have been major accomplishments between the US and Canada. A free trade agreement reached between the two countries will serve as a model of a working consultative process for the rest of the world to admire.

Leader defends policies

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ensure that pay equity is in place). Grossman was also asked about his party's deviation from strict conservative social policies. He

servative social policies. He responded by saying that he leads "the *progressive* Conservatives; the roots of my party are socially progressive." He explained that the people of Ontario want progressive social policies along with conservative economics.

The final question fielded by the party leader was over the place of women in his party. Grossman spoke of the creation of the "Win 89 Fund," a fund set up "to help women seek nomination to the party."

Here's looking forward to "Breakfast with Bob" and "Dinner with David."

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Page 4 EXCALIBUR April 2, 1987

EXCAL SECURITY FORUM

Next week, Excal will publish a write-in open forum on concerns and recommendations relating to York security and safety. All interested individuals or campus groups are encouraged to submit their views. Signed letters (preferably typed or double-spaced) must be received no later than Monday, April 6.

The Editors

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