

negotiable. Our cultural integrity is not negotiable. Not now. Not ever.

More specifically, our medicare system and our fundamental social programs are not open for discussion. They are our business, and nobody else's.

If we enter negotiations with the Americans, and if we can arrive at a deal, the deal we make will strengthen our sovereignty, not weaken it. Only a strong economy can guarantee our sovereignty. Only a strong economy will allow us to support our cultural and social institutions. If our economy were weak, our sovereignty would surely be less resilient. It is hard to maintain your pride when you have your hat in your hand.

During the years since World War Two, Canada has been actively working to bring down trade barriers throughout the world. We have been a leader in the multilateral negotiations held regularly by most of the world's trading nations. We have been through seven rounds of these negotiations, and we hope soon to begin another one. Because every time we can force trade barriers down we gain real and measurable benefits. Back in 1960, for example, our exports to all countries accounted for only 12 percent of our national income. Last year, exports brought us nearly three dollars out of every ten we earned.

And what has happened to our sovereignty during these years? It flourished and matured. As our economy has grown and our prosperity increased, so have the institutions that give us our unique Canadian identity: our health care and educational systems, our social insurance, our equalization programs. We have supported and fostered a vibrant cultural community. We have been able to build institutions and programs which reflect our own values and attitudes.

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