

in debt, so we're just going to be getting deeper and deeper in debt and inflation is going to go up, so it's just not going to work unless something is done about the debt.

Q. DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANY LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT RIGHT NOW THAT HAVE POLICIES OR INITIATIVES IN PLACE THAT HAVE TO DO WITH MAKING CANADA READY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE?

Canadian businessmen are travelling abroad.

I think the free trade agreement was the beginning of that so that when everything happens in 1992 in Europe at least we have some experience in operating in that kind of a ball game.

International trade is a good idea but the trouble is how to make it work which is basically what you're asking us...

...I don't think we have been competitively creative enough with what they do with the tariffs and taxes in this country to really generate "buy Canadian". We're not protecting our interests because it's cheaper to buy somewhere else because of the taxes that are and are not levied on things. Take VCRs - if you were to take all the taxes off of Electrohome and put taxes on the others there would be a significant part of the population that would buy Canadian.

That's right, instead of going over the border and bringing them back, how many people do you know that do that?

All kinds of people go across the border to buy major products like cars and VCRs and bring them across the border and pay the taxes and it's still cheaper, is that international trade?

Sure, billions of dollars.

We've got to protect our interests.

Q. THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S., IT'S BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1989, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR?

It seems to me that we've lost a lot of good companies and I can't honestly see how that can be a good thing. I can't honestly see any benefit from it.

P. HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT IT SINCE IT CAME IN?

No, I don't really think I have.

P. IS IT HAVING PRETTY MUCH THE EFFECT THAT YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD?

Yeah.

It was supposed to generate trade for us, we were supposed to be able to make our furniture here and sell it down in the States but I haven't heard if my nephew is selling any down there yet. It seems that all the publicity that we've heard about plants closing and that seems to be the results of the free trade so far. Everything that they said was supposed to happen hasn't happened. I think it's deleting Canada so to speak, making Canada less Canadian. There's only a thin line across the 49th parallel separating us from being Yankees. I think that most of us that are born here want to stay Canadian but I don't think it's going to be possible if we have complete free trade, it's just going to be one big country and that's going to be because of free trade.