

United States if their respective cultures are both put "on the table." The sovereignty of the United States is in no possible danger, so the bulk of both countries' care and attention must be given to the economic and cultural sovereignty of Canada. And even a modest amount of care and attention with respect to this particular point on the part of the United States will go far to surmounting the psychological obstacles to the successful completion of a free trade agreement between our two countries.

By hindsight, one would wish that the whole idea of one comprehensive agreement with the U.S. could be scrapped in favour of a staged process -- one that was far less dramatic; one involving less time pressure because it was expected to take, say, ten years; one that was less politically sensitive by reason of the fact that a Canadian federal election is expected in the Spring of 1989. But we are too heavily committed to the present negotiations to make such a fundamental change in approach at this stage, and the failure to reach an agreement will bring on a sense of betrayal on both sides and result in more, rather than fewer, restrictions on trade between us.

Let us therefore press on to complete the comprehensive agreement our respective negotiators are now hammering out. When the job is done, and I say when not if because the consequences of failure are not to be thought of -- the rewards for both our countries will be great. Historically the trade pacts we have reached have been of inestimable benefit to us both and are in large measure responsible for our respective degrees of prosperity and for our great respect and friendship