

Q. I'D LIKE TO POSE ANOTHER QUESTION TO THE GROUP IF I MIGHT, LOOKING BEYOND THE CANADIAN BORDER AND INTO THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, IT'S NOT BEEN STATIC IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS, DO YOU SEE ANYTHING THAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN A GLOBAL SENSE HAVING AN IMPACT ON THE CANADIAN ECONOMY?

What I see is the unrest in Eastern Europe, the breakup of the Warsaw Pact, and the rebellion of many of the socialist Soviet Republics. I'm an older man, I was in the air force, and what concerns me particularly is the reunification of East and West Germany. Are we looking to World War 3?

Economically speaking, I think we have to be scared now that Europe is breaking apart. I was there two years ago, my first trip to Europe. Spain has been liberated a few years back from France. They joined the common market so now they're getting stronger, their dollar was equal to ours in 87, and they're starting to produce quality products which they couldn't before. We're going to start seeing that happening in the eastern community. We're stuck in North America here, there was a demand for our products in those countries but as those countries try to become self-sufficient in everything, including agriculture, we're going to be worse off in three years.

P. SO YOU SEE MARKETS DRYING UP OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

Yeah.

I think that's why Canada is trying to adapt now. Canada is changing and they realize that it's not just our goods but services and technology. We're training these other countries that want this technology to develop their countries, I know that's one aspect that's being worked on now.

I agree with Wes. I think there will be new marketing opportunities. The eastern bloc, they're not really players of any significance right now, so if anything it should be a plus.

I think that we're going to have to produce a better product, cheaper, find new ways of marketing or re-thinking our old export/import focus.

Just thinking about Germany and Japan, they came up from the depths of defeat, just laid waste and they're beating us out economically. In the western world, labour and management is always in conflict, fighting each other. The Japanese and German attitude is that labour and management work together.

In Japan, what I've seen on TV is that when you work for big companies, big corporations and even work for a lesser wage, they rent you a suite to live in. Therefore, your wage is comparable with the economic situation and controls prices a little bit, that way the company can make more.

P. DO YOU SEE ANY IMPACT FOR VANCOUVER SPECIFICALLY WITH THE CHANGING WORLD SITUATION, ANY OPPORTUNITIES OR THREATS FOR BUSINESSES SPECIFIC TO THIS REGION?

I think a lot of people are waiting to see what's happening in Hong Kong. I think in '91 when that happens you're going to see a big change. Right now we've got a lot of Asian people coming here, getting their money out. The climate here is good and half of Vancouver seems to be owned by Orientals in one form or another. If Hong Kong settles down and it's going to be ok then a lot of people will stay there. But if it goes into China then I think a lot of people will come here first.