

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

their economies were faltering and falling along with commodity prices and that commodity prices were being manipulated by the large corporations which were buying and importing them.

This has now been compounded by the debt crisis. The debt crisis has meant that in many countries there is a virtual international monetary fund dictatorship as to the kinds of policies that these different countries can put into place. They have been forced to change the whole direction of their economies. They have been forced to open up their economies to much more rapid exploitation by foreign capital, and now it is our turn.

Canada, of course, has never been immune to external economic forces. Many of us are old enough to remember the depression of the 1930s. We all have some knowledge of the great period of unemployment we had in the seventies and eighties which continues in many parts of Canada today. We know what these economic forces are.

In the past Governments have traditionally taken action which would mitigate the worst effects of these economic forces. At the same time the new economic forces present in our world themselves limit the powers of countries to ease these effects.

In the face of these new forces and this new kind of reality, I want to consider what Canadians should be able to expect from their Government. What kind of policy should a Government bring in which would help Canadian people deal with the new forces facing them? What kind of policies should they be able to expect from a right wing Government such as we have today? What kind of policy should they be able to expect from a more progressive Government?

First, let us consider a right wing Government. The first thing they would expect is that the Government would not simply surrender to those forces but would maintain the national integrity of financial institutions such as banks, that it would maintain the national integrity of our economic institutions, that it would husband our resources and take care of our energy supply because these resources, and particularly energy, are the key to the future economy of our country. We would expect that even a right wing Government would ensure that the social programs which have been put in place over the past 60 years to protect Canadians in time of difficulty would be protected.

We would expect that even a right wing Government would keep the Canadian level of control and ownership in Canadian business rather than having that level disappear. We would expect that even a right wing Government would safeguard our culture, and we would expect that it would work in international fora for trade liberalization which also has safeguards to ensure that Canadian workers are not the victims of trade liberalization.

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In other words, Canadians should have been able to expect the sort of programs that the Progressive Conservatives promised in the 1983 election but have not delivered. They are the kind of promises that were made when the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) all indicated that they were opposed to any kind of free trade agreement with the United States, when they were running for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. McDermid: Not any kind.

Mr. Manly: They were opposed to a free trade agreement with the United States. When they were running for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party, they declared that such a policy was simplistic. They declared that the Canadian people had rejected it in 1911 and rejected it again in 1983. They appealed to the view that Canadians did not want their economy to be totally integrated with that of the United States. They appealed to the view that Canadians had a pride in their own ability to deal with economic problems. While they made those kinds of commitments, they have not followed through on them.

A good example is when the Government, in 1985, came out with its very brave Baie Comeau policy with respect to book publishing. It said that if a Canadian book publisher or distributor was taken over by a foreign firm, the foreign buyer would have to find a Canadian majority owner or control within two years. According to the trade agreement, now the Canadian Government has the onus put upon it to ensure that there will be fair market price paid to the foreign buyer of this Canadian outfit. It does not say how the fair market price will be determined. The Canadian Government becomes the buyer of last resort.

In other words, the whole pressure of enforcing that policy is put on the Canadian Government and the financial pressure is thrown back on the Canadian taxpayer. It is another way in which the Government has betrayed its commitment to protect Canadian culture.

These are some of the minimum expectations we would have even from a right wing Government if that Government cared about Canada. Given the reality of economic forces in Canada in 1988, what could we expect?

I believe that all the positive measures I mentioned earlier that we would expect from a decent Conservative Government we would also be able to expect from a more progressive left wing Government.

In addition, however, we should be able to expect that the Government would be involved in a democratic planning process for the rational use of our resources, our skills, and for the rational use of government power in order to stop the leaks in our economy, to promote a greater self-sufficiency, to prevent unnecessary outflows, and to develop our international