

an unfair advantage.

P. WOULD THERE HAVE BEEN A BETTER COUNTRY FOR US TO DO FREE TRADE WITH? SHOULD WE HAVE HAD FREE TRADE WITH JAPAN INSTEAD?

They always had isolationist policies, they just sat back and learned. I don't see what's so bad about doing that. You can't go from grade 3 to grade 13 and then skip into the second year of a humanities program in university, that's what we've tried to do. We haven't taken those steps, and that is the problem.

P. SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE ISOLATED FOR A WHILE BEFORE WE BECOME TRADERS?

That's right. Our priorities have to be very firmly established and the knowledge of how to pursue them has to be firmly established. We're open to abuse.

One thing we found out when we started dealing with the States is that they have a lot of protectionist policies. They had a lot of those in place before we even entered into the agreement and there's others that they put in place after they entered into free trade.

P. ARE THERE COUNTRIES THAT WE WOULD BE SAFER WITH, WOULD WE BE SAFER TRADING WITH THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF EUROPE...

...we were over 40 percent dependent on the States for our trade prior to free trade. This was the dumbest thing that we could have done.

Q. WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT MOVING TOWARDS AN INCREASED FOCUS ON TRADE?

I think there's some personal motives in there. I think somebody is getting rich behind the scenes. Who cares about Canadians when you're 50 and you've got 50 billion dollars in the bank. You can go with that money around the whole world and establish yourself.

P. SO YOU THINK IT'S FOR PERSONAL MOTIVES. DO ANY OF YOU THINK IT'S BEING DONE JUST IN RESPONSE TO THE CHANGING WORLD SITUATION?

No, if that were the case they should start by cleaning up their own mess within the country.

I'm sure they see the European countries forming a trade bloc. If we don't form a trade bloc then we're going to be left out. I think one thing that hasn't been properly looked at is that there is one law in the States that has never been taken off the books. I think that this could be one of the motives in the States to enter into free trade with Canada and Mexico, and that's manifest destiny. They're getting us damn cheap, aren't they.

P. WHAT COUNTRY WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO FORM A TRADE BLOC WITH?

That's something we should have looked at a little more carefully. Why is it so important that we be a member of a bloc, period. There have been trading blocs throughout history, if you look at the middle class, there isn't one of them that has ever lasted.

Q. IF YOU WANTED TO GET SOME INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE, WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION WOULD YOU WANT AND WHERE WOULD YOU THINK YOU SHOULD GET IT?

Anybody who knows what the hell they are talking about. I don't know who that is because I probably would have gone to them already.