

is part of a larger subversion of legitimate political power by unaccountable global economic power.

Those on the right that have always favoured the marketplace in an uncritical way will now have their way without having to resort to politics. Their goals will eventually be realized by such trade agreements. The economic conditions and rules demanded by these agreements, or by GATT for that matter, which the powers that be wish to see similarly dominated by uncritical free market values, will eat away at supply management, at social programs, at fair labour legislation, environmental regulations and anything which gets in the way of the freedom of the powerful to do what they want.

Domestic political sovereignty becomes a cruel joke. What we are seeing here is the death of politics. Governments will be reduced to catering spectators or beggars, trading their people's values away in return for the favour of global investors.

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Even those who voted for the FTA will be surprised at how the Canada they love depended on healthy debate rather than the entrenched victory of their own vision. Their victory will be tragic. Be careful what you ask for, they should be warned, you might get it.

Resisters might be willing to delegate economic sovereignty to an international political organization that was open to regular input from its constituent members, like the UN or the European Economic Community are to some degree, if that international body was dedicated to co-operation rather than competition. It would not be enough to be a timid referee of a global economic dogfight. Delegation of sovereignty will have to occur in some way or another if we are to solve the global ecological crisis.

However, instead of this kind of sovereignty erosion, we are seeing sovereignty eroded in favour of the very eco-ignorant market forces that helped create the environmental crisis in the first place.

In a world where we have just celebrated the end of bureaucratic state totalitarianism in the east, we seem poised in a fit of ideological blindness and gloating to adopt the raw capitalism we left behind years ago. Only now it will be called globalization rather than the brute

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totalitarianism of economic greed and corporate self-interest which bred the other form of totalitarianism in the first place. Both these forms of totalitarianism will be and have been severely damaging to the environment and to human dignity.

I hope what I have done today is to demonstrate just how profound our objection is to the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and the possibility of a North American free trade agreement and after that a hemispheric free trade agreement.

It is not just that it is a bad deal that needs to be renegotiated. It certainly is a bad deal. It did not obtain what the government set out to obtain, which was immunity from American trade laws.

In return for not obtaining what we set out to obtain, we gave up our ability to control our energy policy and our investment policies. We gave up control over services and indirectly we set the conditions for the eventual disappearance of our social programs as we know them, our tax system as we know it and various other things that I do not have the time to go into.

This deal will not be renegotiated. This is Liberal illusion. It would only be reopened to make it better for the Americans. Even if in some magical way it could be opened and improved for Canadians—and here I think is the profound difference between the NDP and the Liberals—it would still be a bad deal. It would still be a bad deal because it enshrines a way of understanding a world that is morally wrong.

Canadians will have to choose. Trying to build an alternative to the world intended by these agreements will not be easy.

Maybe the devil we know is already the FTA and Canadians will prefer the devil they know, but it is a devil. Trying to live otherwise will not be the devil, but it will be difficult. It will take a commitment to do what we can by ourselves and what we can do in co-operation with others in the world who want a different world than that envisioned by these agreements.

The Americans will not like it. They want a hemispheric free trade agreement. They could get nasty. But if we do not risk these acts of self-respect and democratic recovery that are recommended in this motion, then Canada is lost in any event.