

There is nothing new about that. Twenty-two(22) years ago the same kind of controversy was generated by proposals for an agreement between Canada and the United States on automotive trade. As you know, the Auto Pact was signed, to the great mutual advantage of both Windsor and Detroit, Canada and the United States. Last year, automotive trade between our countries totalled over 60 billion dollars. It is fair to say that, had the critics prevailed 22 years ago, that trade would be billions of dollars less; there would be thousands fewer jobs on both sides of the border, and the economy and vitality of both our cities, both our countries would be diminished.

In Canada today, a group led by the Canadian Labour Congress and certain Parliamentarians, is resolutely opposed to a free trade agreement between Canada and the United States, in the same way that their counterparts opposed the Auto Pact 22 years ago. In the United States, there is a more chilling echo of the protectionism which nearly brought the world to its knees in the Depression. With the Auto Pact, and in the thirties, larger views prevailed, and our countries signed trade agreements which increased jobs and prosperity on both sides of the 49th parallel. Indeed, in the thirties, the implications reached well beyond our two countries. The agreement signed, in 1935, by Prime Minister King and President Roosevelt became the basis of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the basis of world prosperity.

In both Canada and the United States there will be public pressure urging governments to back away from these historic negotiations, and public voices raising fears about foreigners. There are groups in both countries who are ready to be afraid, or who think it is better politics to look inward than to reach outward. In this home stretch of the negotiations, we will need the active support of business and other leaders who understand the world's need for more open trade.

Because there will be no limit on the imagination or the accusations of our critics, each change in the weather will be blamed on the trade negotiations. For example, as the Blue-Jays continue their inexorable march to the American League pennant, each victory will be seen in the United States as part of a Canadian plot, and any occasional loss will be seen in Canada as proof of American Cultural Imperialism.