

the political level in Washington. Well, that has changed and is continuing to change. As you may or may not know, Vice President Bush recently went up to Canada to talk to the Prime Minister about trade and other problems, and one of the messages we received loud and clear was, you have to raise the profile. You've gotta get the political profile up.

What has happened since then? The President has had two briefings by Vice President Bush on what's going on. We've had a briefing of the full Cabinet with the President present, on what's going on in the negotiations. The President acknowledged in the state of the union address that this is a high priority for the administration. Unfortunately, we get, now, politicians out giving their own speeches. The message is getting through that this is something which, if we're gonna do it, we've gotta raise the political profile in Washington. And I think that's being done.

As I said, it's not always good, because you get people with a little bit of knowledge and all heck breaks loose, but anyway, I think we can do it. We almost have to do it, because the consequences of failure are really too mind-boggling to even want to focus on. We are, as you've heard numerous times again, I hate to say it again, the two largest trading partners in the world. We are next door neighbors. We are probably the closest two allies in the Western world. If these two countries can't sit down and in our mutual interest craft a trade agreement which is in our mutual benefit, then I guess I question, what hope do we have of dealing with the global problems we have,