

Q. WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING TO BE FINANCIALLY IN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS? BETTER, WORSE, ABOUT THE SAME?

A lot worse.

I'm trying to make it better but I can't see it getting better.

Well, I just finished my income tax. I got a 4 percent increase and there's less money in the bank this year and food is going up - it's just a progressive thing. Where I work we get 4 percent increases, I'm going downhill so I'm looking at changing jobs. I'm worried, really worried.

I'm retired. I was a freelancer all my life so I have not put a lot of money away for old age. It's really hard so I work, you get the regular and the supplement. It comes to a little over \$800 a month but when you work you don't get the supplement.

P. HOW DO YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO BE FOR CANADA OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

Well, we'll have sold the country. We'll be talking about buying it back maybe.

I think our identity is slipping away. We have something to be proud of.

You see originally we came to this country for a reason, it was a free, young, energetic country. Today it's far from that, it's not free anymore, it's not energetic, there's actually nothing left. The whole country is just ruled by a handful of politicians who play us like a couple of yo-yos.

Q. LET'S THINK ABOUT WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH THE ECONOMY IN THE 1990'S AND THE KINDS OF THINGS THAT MIGHT INFLUENCE IT AND THE KINDS OF IMPACTS THERE MIGHT BE?

We cannot handle it anymore. Talking about free trade, it's one issue but we seem to forget a couple of other things, our structure in Canada is completely different than the American structure. The Americans are free enterprise and Canada is government controlled. With all our social programs, which the Americans don't have, how can we start competing with them. The other thing is that the American economy is geared for 300 million people, our economy is geared for 5 million people. They're going to flood us and millions of jobs are going to be lost. In my area, I'm in the air conditioning/refrigeration business, do you know how many factories we've got left in Canada? Over the last two years we've lost 85 percent, most of them subsidiaries of the Americans.

P. WHERE DO YOU THINK THE ECONOMY ITSELF IS GOING TO HEAD OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS?

It's already sliding, we can see it now. It's going down so rapidly that I'm actually carrying American dollars in my purse, that's no joke. We had a lesson in 1958 or 1960, I wasn't even in the country at that time. There was no free trade and Canada had 30 farm machinery manufacturers. They opened up free trade between Canada and the U.S. on farm machinery and how many have we got today? None, all those jobs have gone. What have we learned? It's sliding south and all of us will end up having to follow. We're taxed to death. I mean, my girlfriend does the same thing that I do in Missouri and her take home is about 150 percent more than mine. It's unfair that I have to skimp for my kids and their education. If I was even across the border in Buffalo, I would be better off.