

Free trade: What's The Deal?

by PETER THOMPSON

"Free Canada, Trade Mulroney" read the signs atop Parliament Hill last Monday as protesters voiced their disapproval to the signing of the Canada - U.S. Free Trade Pact last Saturday afternoon.

The signing of the Treaty is but a milestone as both the Canadian Parliament and U.S. Congress must ratify the legislation to take effect January 1, 1989.

Liberal leader John Turner has vowed to tear up the agreement should he win the next election, saying that the agreement "is a Sale of Canada Act" and NDP leader Ed Broadbent maintains that the Federal government has no mandate to proceed because Free Trade was not an issue in the last election.

Unfortunately, while hearing numerous reports of support and opposition to the Agreement, the average Canadian has heard little of substance with regards to the actual contents of the pact. Here, then, *The Brunswickan* provides a

summary of the main points of the agreement. It must be noted, however, that this information was taken from a government publication.

Tariffs between the two countries will be eliminated by the time the agreement is fully implemented in 1998. Depending on the sensitivity of the sector affected, tariffs will be eliminated in three different ways:

- immediately (Jan. 1, 1989)
- five equal steps to Jan. 1, 1993
- ten equal steps to Jan 1, 1998

Securing and improving access to the U.S. Market - The Agreement contains measures to restore the rule of law in commerce between the U.S. and Canada. It will prevent either country from adopting protectionist policies against the other when the particular imports are not an important cause of injury.

New Trade Opportunities - The Free Trade Agreement will give Canadian and American *Service Industries* the right to do business on either side of the border.

Specifically covered by the agreement are tourism, telecommunications, computer services, and transportation services.

Investment - Both countries will maintain existing sectoral investment restrictions but Canada will phase out reviewing indirect acquisitions of Canadian owned businesses, and Canada will also retain restrictions in key-sectors such as energy, air transport, and "cultural industries".

Agriculture - All agricultural tariffs will be eliminated over ten years, and no export sub-

sidies will be permitted by either government, although Canada will retain the right to cushion domestic producers in times of depressed prices. Canada's right to have farm marketing boards will not be affected.

Energy - "Canada will be a reliable supplier if the U.S. is a reliable customer and both countries will share their energy supplies in the event of an energy shortage."

Wine and Liquor - "The agreement will phase out seven years of discriminatory pricing."

Dispute Settlement - The Agreement calls for a panel of Canadian and American representatives in the case of a dispute.

Further information can be obtained by writing to: The International Trade Communications Group, (DMTN), The Department of External Affairs, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0G2. This information comes directly from the government, and *the Brunswickan* will attempt to find other sources of information.

How To Meet Brian

York-Sunbury M.P. Bob Howie said today that 26 university students will be hired by the House of Commons to guide groups visiting the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings, providing narration regarding the history of the Canadian Parliament in both official languages.

Mr. Howie said that candidates must be prepared to undertake their duties from May 2 to September 5, 1988.

They will receive \$8.43 per hour for a 35 hour week and are required to pay their own transportation, accommodation and other related expenses.

Applications must be received no later than January 29, 1988 by the Parliamentary Guide Recruitment Program, Human Resources Directorate, P.O. Box 1021, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6.

Mr. Howie said that complete House of Commons application forms and the questionnaire are available at Student Manpower Centres and his Constituency Office.

"Applications must be received no later than January 29, 1988," he said. Mr. Howie emphasized that guides are involved in shift work which involves days, evenings, and sometimes weekends.

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