

You know that Canada is now preparing for two separate bouts of international trade negotiations, one bilaterally with the United States and the other multilaterally under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, better known as the GATT.

Both of these negotiations will be vital to the future of our country. We are a trading nation, more so than almost any other country in the world. To help us prepare for the talks, and to advise us as negotiations proceed, we have established a system of advisory groups representing the interests of all major sectors of the Canadian economy. There are two kinds of groups. One is the International Trade Advisory Committee, whose members come from all walks of life and are concerned with broad policy. The other is a series of sectoral advisory groups, each concerned with the impact of trade policies on its own slice of Canada.



I think each of you is aware of all of this, at least in general terms. And I think you're also aware that our country's biggest labour group, the C.L.C., has not yet accepted our invitation to take its place on these advisory bodies. I'm aware that the leadership of the C.L.C. does not agree with our decision to enter bilateral negotiations with the United

States. But the decision has been made, we're starting the talks, and we hope that the C.L.C. will play a role in determining our positions as the talks proceed.

There's an old saying that if you want to have a part in making the rules, you have to be there when the rules are made. The Steel Workers Union is very much aware of this, because of the success of the Steel Trade Conference. I might point out that another union organization, the Canadian Federation of Labour, is also aware, and has taken its place on the International Trade Advisory Committee. It doesn't agree with everything we do, either.



But agreement is not the point. Being part of the process is. It commits you to nothing. It does not signify approval of anything. And it is certainly the most effective way of getting your points across, of getting your input put in.

So the invitation is still open. The door is still open. Let the success of your efforts here, at the Steel Trade Conference, be your guide. The table awaits you. All you have to do is come in and sit down.

Did I just say "sit down"?

I want you to know that I practice what I preach.

Thank you very much.