

years, and I noticed every time a holiday came along, like if Thanksgiving was on a Tuesday, all your staff got Monday off. The Americans work on Monday, the same with Christmas, if it falls on a Wednesday your staff all expect Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday off as well.

P. DOES ANYBODY SEE THAT THEIR OWN JOBS WOULD CHANGE IN THE NINETIES IF WE FOCUSED HEAVILY ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE?

Mine would. I work for a corporate travel agency so we're flying people all over the place. ...they'd have to hire more people.

P. WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE?

Education. I know for myself it wasn't possible to go to university, although I would have liked to. There was no way I could have ever afforded it even if I took out a student loan. I think if it was more approachable people could get an education a lot easier.

I also think the big thing is to give students when they are in high school a goal, an aim towards something. Tell them what jobs are out there and what fields are going to be the future, not jobs that are being phased out. I know I went through a similar type program and the jobs that they tell you about, the figures they give you are not correct because the job market isn't stable. I know a couple of guys that are engineers and stuff for the railroad and they brought engineers from England and Scotland to work here because they couldn't fill the jobs here.

P. SO WE REALLY NEED SPECIFIC TECHNICAL TRAINING IN CERTAIN AREAS

Yeah.

That's the way I feel. We're in the age of instant communication and information and if you haven't got your finger on that pulse, retraining and upgrading constantly, within five years you're gone. You're by the wayside.

That's a good point. It's not just high school and university, it's ongoing. People have to be prepared to change and be open to learn new skills and to take retraining.

I will not allow myself to go one year without taking some kind of course, just for general upgrading or specific information.

P. WHAT OTHER SORTS OF THINGS DO WE WANT TO DO?

We have to become more open minded. I'm thinking of Hong Kong specifically. I moved here two years ago from Edmonton and I heard several racist comments there but here I have never heard more. Sitting on a bus listening to people talk about who their neighbours are and stuff like that, the thing is that as we become more of a world economy, we have to become more accepting and more open. The vision has to be more outward.

We have to learn to work together. I think that Canadians need to find their own identity. I think a lot of people are jealous of the Chinese and Italians and other races because they tend to work together and help each other whereas Canadians tend to forget everyone else.

Canadians have to decide as a country how they want to deal with the rest of the world, whether we want to export products either finished or raw or import more. We have to decide how we are going to deal with the economic market.