

PRINT

CANADA-ECONOMIC RELATIONS

ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

EDITORIALS

Ottawa Citizen Oct. 3/84

The Citizen expressed caution about any hurried moves toward a free trade understanding with the U.S. The paper noted strong protectionist elements in the U.S. and saw American protectionism as the major threat to Canadian interests. "The clear imbalance in the economies of the two nations, the existing weight of American protectionism...and the vagaries of U.S. Congressional ideology suggest that the burden is on the U.S. to prove that free trade can work to mutual advantage..." the Citizen said.

Vancouver Sun Oct. 12/84

The Sun noted the continuing protectionist pressures in the United States and appeared to commend Canadian ministers who spoke out against them. But The Sun reminded its readers that the Canadian government itself has a "shabby record of quotas, curbs and tariffs against textiles, shoes, electronics and automobiles." The Sun said Ottawa should also turn its attention to those matters and remove the discriminatory practices as soon as possible.

Toronto Star Oct. 12/84

The Star complained that there had not been enough informed discussion of the political dimensions of a free trade policy. But to date there were indications that free trade would jeopardize Canadian independence. It would tie Canada's economy even closer to the U.S., it would be harder to pursue industrial, tax and regulatory policies. And even the economic benefits of free trade could prove "elusive."

La Presse Oct. 11/84

La Presse gave general endorsement to the concept of free trade between Canada and the U.S. It suggested that if the U.S. Congress should manifest a desire to entertain the idea or step toward it, Canada should be of a similar disposition--on the same wave length. In the interim, the paper lauded External Affairs to battle protectionism if the Canadian government was erecting similar barriers against products from other nations.

Ottawa Citizen Oct. 18/84

The Citizen suggested that any negotiations with Washington over sectoral free trade or broader free trade framework should be conducted in a wary manner. Canada's concerns should be broad--taking into account not only the effects of free trade on certain sectors, but as well on Canada's relations with other nations. The Citizen noted that the Reagan administration seemed in favour of free trade in certain sectors. But Congress has given no indication of supporting the concept because of Congressional fear of angering special economic interest groups.