

In case you haven't heard about them yet, let me introduce these myths to you, and attempt to puncture them for our mutual benefit.

Myth number one is that Canada is a second-rank trading partner of the United States, outstripped by Japan or Germany or Britain, or some other large industrial power. This is the hoariest chestnut of them all, and even one of your former Presidents swallowed it. While we have made considerable progress in laying it to rest, every time we go to write its epitaph it is somehow resurrected once again, usually by someone who should know better.

Because I want to give you details and statistics in dealing later with another myth, I will only state here as an incontrovertible fact that we are your best customer in the whole wide world, as you are ours. No other bilateral trading relationship anywhere compares with that of Canada and the United States, in size, in scope, and in quality. Our trade with each other surpasses your trade with Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and indeed almost all the members of the expanded European Community put together. Yet we are a