

Free traders battle nationalists

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economic considerations," he said, adding later, "Do you want to try with the Soviet Union bilaterally?"

Richter admitted that the free trade arrangement posed serious problems but, "First, it must be dealt with by our thinkers, then by the university professors, then possibly by journalists."

Richter considers international free trade areas as the trend of the future and that a reluctance to accept the inevitable could damage Canadian interests. He described objections to the free trade arrangements as "a paranoia that could lead to an impasse."

Richter is optimistic that "the discussion will force our own society to look at things we have done wrong."

Daks described the free trade agreement as "half a deal." His objection was to the nebulous and uncertain nature of the agreement.

He spoke of his concern that Canada negotiated from weak position extending what he termed as "a nonsymmetrical relationship."

"Canada," he maintained, "gave away essential elements prematurely. Canada gave up on the NEP, altered investment controls regarding Canadian access. Canada went to the negotiations stating publicly its great need, where as the U.S. emphasized Canadian dependency by placing sanctions immediately before hand."

Laxer began his talk by stating, "This is a bad deal for Canada."

He pointed out that the present arrangement has no binding dispute mechanism, and that this constitutes "not free, but rather tied trade, because free trade

Bomb threat stalls Capilano

NORTH VANCOUVER (CUP)—A bomb threat forced Capilano College to evacuate its Lynnwood campus for an afternoon last week, cancelling the day's classes and midterm exams.

The threat, believed to have originated in the Fraser Valley, was phoned into the North Vancouver RCMP shortly before noon on October 26.

According to RCMP sergeant Dawiskiba, a male caller claimed a bomb had been placed on the campus and was set to explode at 1:30 p.m.

A fire truck stood by while RCMP officers, using trained dogs and aided by college maintenance workers, searched individual buildings.

Although no bomb was found, Capilano acting president Frank Gelin said the threat was taken seriously.

Students gathered in the south campus parking lot, jamming traffic in all campus lots and main entrances.

North Vancouver RCMP said the caller gave no details other than the alleged time of detonation.

Sociology professor Noga Gayle says the bomb was set to go off at the same time as a speech by a visiting political science lecturer, who might have offended someone, "because he was talking about world revolution and the global economic crisis, and some people are not prepared for that kind of argument."

"It's also mid-terms," she added. "Maybe someone was trying to put them off. Who knows?"

requires conditions of competition. Does anyone expect any U.S. subsidiaries to compete with their parent companies? Of course not."

Laxer pointed out the relationship between effective sovereignty and effective democracy. "The Americans realized this," he said, "It was the meaning of their revolution."

"Canadians view this treaty as a trade issue where as the Americans view it as an investment access opportunity."

Laxer read out a long list of control areas that the U.S. will still retain which contrasted with the Canadian concessions. "We gave up before we started to negotiate," he said, "We gave them most of their wish list. Then we went around shouting that we have no options."

Laxer noted that the pact eliminates Canadian ability to restrict our exports even in the case of a critical shortage as occurred in the 1970's over fuel resources.

According to Laxer, the assumption that cheaper pricing will result from the trade deal is erroneous. "Canadians tend to think of going to America and crossing back at the border wearing four dresses."

He pointed out how consumers may expect higher pharmaceutical drug prices. He also called attention to the deregulation aspects of the treaty.

"Deregulation moves to monopoly. Look what happened in the airline industry. PWA took over Canadian Pacific. We now have three major airlines in a monopoly position. Do you think they will lower prices?"

Wilkinson pointed out that the agreement as it now stands does not resemble what the MacDonald Royal Commission recommended when it advocated a free trade treaty.

The Commission originally recommended that agricultural activity, service sectors and cultural industries be excluded from negotiation.

Also to be excluded from negotiation were the pricing and taxation of our own resources, the regulation of capital inflows, health care programs and the rules and regulations regarding third party countries. "This," said Wilkinson, "needs to be stressed."

Wilkinson pointed out that 80 percent of Canadian exports are already tariff free.

Most of these exports have been from small firms that have been succeeding very well," he said, "largely due to the low exchange rate on the Canadian dollar. Canada was already competitive and today that situation still exists."

Instead of the free trade approach, Wilkinson offers his opinion that, "we should have lowered our interest rates. High rates raised the cost of production in Canada."

The tribunal procedure, to deal with problems caused by the agreement, "represents no change in U.S. protectionist law. All the tribunal can do is assess if everything is in accordance with U.S. Dept. of Commerce regulations."

He charged that the U.S. Dept. of Commerce only investigates the cases that suit their bias. He said that the Dept. of Commerce, "could rule against Canadian companies competing with U.S. companies regardless of the U.S. companies competence in production and marketing."

Wilkinson spoke of the progressive process that the treaty is to entail. "After seven years," he asked, "what autonomy will Canada have to bargain with?"

"This is the same United States that ignores Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic, the Alaska-Yukon border and the Queen Charlotte waters today," he said.

On completion of their presentations the panel answered questions from the floor.

Asked what positive alternatives existed to the agreement, Laxer replied, "We have been looking at the wrong thing. Japan has not preoccupied itself in this way and they have excellent trade in spite of barriers."

Laxer advocated more venture capital, more research and development, a refurbishing of our inefficient branch plant economy, education and retraining programs and an adequate dealing with provincial barriers.

"A trade arrangement," he said, "is not going to magically transform our economic situation. In the 1980's, the U.S. and Britain, as believers in the magic of the marketplace, have done the worst.

The countries with the most planning—West Germany, Japan and Sweden—have done the best."

Asked about the possible fate of marginalized working people, especially women in the "pink ghetto," Daks maintained that the social costs of the agreement will tend to fall "disproportionately on the backs of the marginal labour force." Daks pointed out that in the U.S. the trickle-down theory has not worked very well as the income distribution for the poor has worsened.

In response to a question on what constituted a Canadian identity, Daks commented that, "the quality of life in Canada is more

equilitarian and more of a community." Laxer replied that, "there is a greater measure of stability and caring in Canada," and that Canada differs from the U.S., "for its tradition of a regional philosophy of moving jobs to people rather than people to jobs."

There was strong applause after Dr. Richter observed, "If you have not the courage enough to be a Canadian in your soul already then you never will. If you have, then you can stand up to anybody, even the Americans." The evening can be summed up with the words of Richter: "We must operate under the assumption of good faith, but you must always be able to ask the questions."

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