

Trade Focus Groups - Toronto
April 17, 1990

INTRODUCTIONS:

Tad, I'm a grandmother. I don't work, I haven't worked for 40 years, well I guess I did my husband's bookkeeping for a while. I like to quilt, I like to read, I like to travel.

Lindey, I teach in George Brown College's community working program. I like to play golf and read and I'm not married and that's about it.

Bernard, I'm recently divorced. I used to be a theatrical agent that was in England but since I've been in Canada I deal in (canvassing?). I don't like working for other people, I like working for myself. I teach physical training, I've done that since I was 12 years old and I'm a semi-professional. Other than that I don't do very much, I like to lay around a lot.

Ed, I'm 75 years old, I've got a son 41 going on 42 and a daughter 38 going on 39. I was in the air force and when I came out of the air force I went into the insurance business in 1945. Ten years ago I sold my insurance business and since then I've been retired and travelling and playing golf and playing bridge. Sometimes I can play bridge five times a week, you know, like senior citizens.

Petulia, I have two children, two little girls. I'm into old movies and before our second kid we used to play a lot of bridge but right now I don't have much time. I'm just going crazy but I'm a dental assistant when I do work.

Q. WHEN YOU THINK OF YOUR HOMES, YOUR FAMILIES, YOUR JOBS AND YOUR COMMUNITIES, WHAT FOR YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE FACING IN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS?

I actually thought about that in the car on the way over and for me money has always been important but now I think that a personal relationship is the most important thing, especially after this weekend. What good is money if there is no one really to share it with.

I think that what's going to happen in the community is that people are going to be focused on the quality of life not the quantity of life, at least I am. At the house I have in Toronto and the house I have in the country, at how to create a better quality of life around it and that means taking more initiative and becoming more a part of the community and not just sitting back and allowing politicians or other members of the community to run rough shod. If you don't agree with it, then you have to actually do something. I tried that for a long time and got burnt out but now I realize again that if I want something to change that I have to be a part of that process.

P. WHAT KINDS OF ISSUES DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU ARE THINKING OF GETTING INVOLVED?

Health, the environmental issues of water and air pollution, the garbage situation and recycling, the fact that the North American continent has not been thinking about what to do with all the people in the major city centres and how to make it a better quality of life. I should back up and say that I am an immigrant from the United States. I've lived here for fourteen years and I chose to come here because I thought it had a more progressive and a better quality of life than I could find close to where I grew up in the States. I think we've lost that perspective with over 200,000 immigrants coming into this country and over 50% of them settling in metro Toronto, which is not bad unless you look at the way we are absorbing them in terms of the quality of housing and the way the transportation system operates. So in light of that, if you are going to ask what I am going to do specifically, I'm going to apply