

Linked.

Oh, yeah, linked.

No, I thought it was separate.

I think of it as separate.

I think it's leading to the elimination of income tax. It has nothing to do with trade.

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD BE THE MOTIVATING REASON FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BE INCREASING IT'S FOCUS ON TRADING?

They're hoping to export more than they import.

They're looking to be able to compete in the world-wide market.

We're a world-wide community, you've got to be good at it. The political nature, we have a Conservative government, the largest majority in Canadian history. The battle cry of the Tories from 1776 until now was no truck or trade to the Yankees and all of a sudden they've gone for free trade. Personally, I approve of free trade but I'm amazed the Conservatives thought of it.

P. WHY DID THEY DO IT?

That's a good question. I think in Mulroney you've got a leader, who I would say is a liberal. I think John Turner is conservative, that's the way I look at it. Mulroney has got that liberal outlook, he was a labour lawyer and always used to negotiate settlements. This is the way he looks across the border.

I see it as three markets. There's going to be Japan, Hong Kong and the entire seaboard, then there's going to be the European community and then North America. I think Canada opened to free trade with the Americans so that we were not bought out right away. We can have someone in our corner that can help fight with us and...

P. SO IT'S LIKE WE ARE MAKING A BLOC OF OUR OWN?

Exactly.

I don't think the federal government wants to be subsidizing any or many industries to make them competitive. They want them to be competitive on their own, not with subsidies from our tax money.

I think the government's focus on free enterprise doesn't necessarily mean that businesses should be on their own. It thinks that businesses as a whole are good for the country. I think that it thinks...the people that stand to gain the most from free trade, the most from world trade, are a few people who are already extremely wealthy. We as individuals stand to get through the next week, to put food on the table. We talk about how we have to limit our expectations and we're sort of trying to get around limiting our expectations while a few people make a great deal of money, and that's just the way it is. I know that I moralize about it and I don't like it but that is the way it is. I can't see any other way. So those people, the government, the Conservatives and the Social Credit government have always been seen as people who really, really want business and think of business more than individuals. They think of business more than social welfare or social legislation. For me, this was really interesting to think of, to orient myself to thinking of the GST as something reducing the business or manufacturing tax, making the product more competitive so that MacMillan-Blodell