

#### 4.2.4 Lobby and Research Groups:

Pro-free trade business groups, such as the Business Council on National Issues and the CMA, continue to be active, although the focus of their trade-related work has shifted to the nuts-and-bolts of managing trade. Much less promotional work and research on the positive benefits of free trade is being done by these groups. The **Alliance for Trade and Job Opportunities** seems to be dormant.

While the pro-free trade groups have steered away from releasing reports, individual companies which had been part of these groups, such as the **Royal Bank**, have released evaluations of the first year of the FTA. The **C.D. Howe Institute** is also expected to produce a comprehensive report early in 1990.

Independent "for-hire" research groups, such as Informetrica and the Conference Board, have scaled down the general attention they give to FTA-related matters based on reduced demand, although consulting groups which are more directly tied to technical trade management issues have experienced some increased demand.

Several specialized news services provide in-depth information for the trade policy and law community. These include the law reporting company, CCH International, which produces *The Free Trade Observer* monthly, for incorporation into its binder *Free Trade Law Reporter*, and the *Globe & Mail*, in conjunction with the *American Banker*, which has begun weekly publication of the *Canada-U.S. Report on Free Trade*.

A large number of research projects on various aspects of the FTA, business restructuring, cross-border investment flows, and international trade are under-way at an assortment of independent research institutes and at the universities, although there is little evidence of co-ordinated effort.

Some of the groups which had actively opposed passage of the FTA continue to be active in monitoring and publicizing events which they believe to be connected to the FTA. They contend, further, that a number of government policy actions, well outside the formal requirements of the FTA, are a part of the implementation process<sup>112</sup>. While the Government denies any direct link between the FTA and these other actions, the Minister of Employment, Barbara McDougall, speaking on Bill C-21, the Government's proposed changes to the unemployment legislation, stated that "privatization, deregulation, tax reform and free trade are all parts of the same agenda [as the UI changes] for revitalizing the Canadian economy to meet the needs of the increased globalization of markets and rapid

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<sup>112</sup> These include the artificial maintenance of high exchange rates, too easy acquiescence to unfavourable GATT rulings, changes to Unemployment Insurance eligibility and benefits, the removal of transportation subsidies, and several parts of the June, 1989 budget, including the elimination of postal subsidies and two dairy support programmes and cutbacks to regional development spending. See, for example "Atlantic Agency's uncertain future worries business" *Toronto Star* August 28, 1989.