

CTV "QUESTION PERIOD"
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PRIME MINISTER BRIAN MULRONEY

EXTRACTS

Certain things are not on the table. We would never discuss anything that impinged upon our national sovereignty... It is a commercial transaction. We are seeking a better commercial deal because in our mind trade means jobs and we have to trade our way out of a very grave unemployment problem.

What we want... would be an end to the kinds of protectionism that cost us jobs across Canada.

We would want the secure access to the American market.

I suppose we would want a progressive ending of the buy America provision where there are billions of dollars of procurement capacities tied up and against which Canada has no recourse in terms of bidding and getting jobs. This is the kind of free and fair trade, freer and fairer trade that we would be, I think, looking for... We would have to see whether we could, within those perimeters, make a deal that would benefit Canada. If the deal benefitted Canada and was fair, fine. If it did not, well, as is said in Quebec, 'pas pires amis', we move on to something else.

If somebody said to me, of the United States, "All right, Prime Minister, we are sitting down to talk trade. Now, here is the first thing we want to tell you is that your medicare program is too costly and it has got to be scraped." Now, what do I tell him? I say, "Thank you very much, goodbye."

This is Canada. I am not talking about an economic union. I am not talking about somebody commenting or dictating our social policy or the nature of our citizenship. I am saying, I am ready to sit down and talk with you because I believe that a commercial transaction can be mutually advantageous. We are your largest customer and you are ours. Now, what can we do to benefit each other in a freer trading economy? That does not give them the right to impose, nor would they try to impose their views on us.