

February PRICE Breakers

FROM SHARP MINDS - COME SHARP PRODUCTS



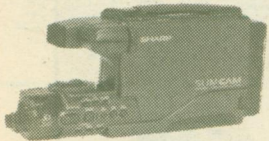
< 29" (74 cm) STEREO COLOUR TELEVISION
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Parliament Hill report

One day last week I was sitting at the microphone in a Hamilton radio station an hour after the announcement that the American government was imposing new duties on steel imports from Canada.

A caller's voice came through on the open-line show. "This proves the free trade agreement doesn't work," he shouted at me. At about the same time, local MP Sheila Copps was holding a press conference to say pretty much the same thing, and blaming all the bad news on the federal government.

Hamilton, of course, is steel town. And there have already been layoffs at Stelco, as the whole steel industry coped with the recession and lower demand for their products. The result was an angry radio show, as the news went out that duties, "as high as 69%" were being slapped on Canada.

Meanwhile, provincial NDP industry minister Ed Phillip was calling on Ottawa to retaliate, and turn the steel skirmish into a huge trade war with America - our major trading partner and a country ten times our size.

So, let's talk about trade for a minute. About 30% of Canada's economy depends on it. We are three times more dependent on trade than the U.S. is, because we



Garth Turner MP
Halton-Peel

have a population that's 90% smaller and a standard of living that is higher. We just can't finance this lifestyle solely by selling things to each other.

Besides, we're good at trade. We're competitive. Why do you think the U.S. steel industry convinced that government to impose duties on Canada? Because while other countries' share of the U.S. steel market fell during the recession, Canada's share rose. Last year Canadian steel exports to the U.S. were higher by 41%.

And it's not just steel. We're also selling the Americans computers, telecommunications equipment,

subway cars, financial services and lots more.

Anyway, did these duties against Canada prove that free trade's a bust? No, they did not. For starters, the Canadian duties averaged 3%, while the U.S. hammered steel from 18 other countries by up to 109%. Maybe that's why the share prices of our steel companies actually rose on the stock exchange.

Secondly, despite the occasional protectionist broadside by the Yanks (they've always done it; always will), just four years into the 10-year implementation of free trade, our trade has mushroomed and 95% of it involves no disputes whatsoever.

Thirdly, with the free trade agreement we can now appeal any silly American action against us - no other country can do that, and neither could we before we had the free trade deal.

This steel problem can now be (and will be) appealed to a panel of outside experts from both countries, on which there is equal Canadian and American representation, for a binding resolution. So far with free trade, there have been eight disputes settled this way. And we haven't lost once.

Start a trade war, like Ontario wants? What a way to destroy the province.

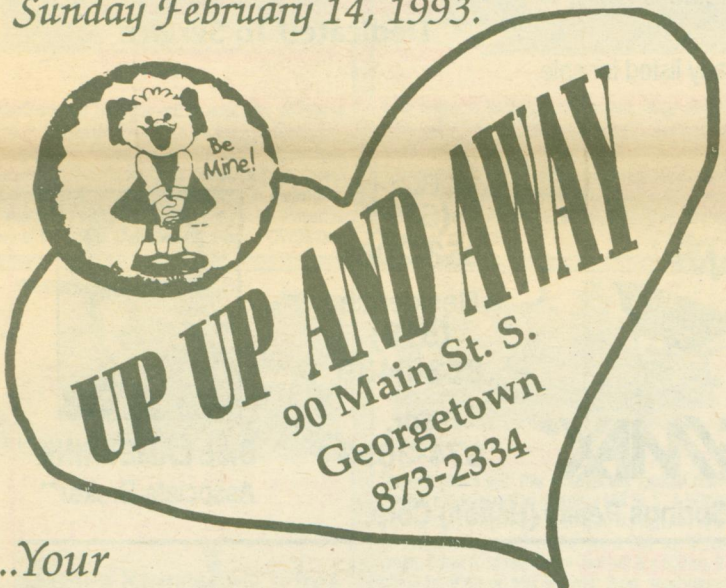
Tear up the free trade deal as Sheila Copps and the NDP suggest? What a way to ensure U.S. actions rob us of Canadian jobs.

Trade's the life blood of this community, and this country. Don't let any frightened people tell you that Canada can hide behind walls when the rest of the world is tearing them down. The 19th Century wasn't really that much fun.

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Sunday February 14, 1993.



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 Saturday Feb. 13
 and
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