

Our Readers Write

Who wants him?

Dear Editor:

Can Canadians trust John Turner? No — says his own Liberal Party which has been trying to dispose of him as their leader for over a year. Even during the current election, members of the Liberal hierarchy continued their efforts to replace Mr. Turner as leader.

As soon as the election is over, regardless of how many Liberals are elected, the fight to replace Mr. Turner as leader will continue. Many influential members of his own party have little respect for him. While there are many reasons, his purely politically prejudiced opposition to the Free Trade Agreement is a main one.

Can the Canadian public trust him when he deliberately lies to them and uses scare tactics about the agreement? Little Canada has always depended upon exports for our high standard of living. It is pure deceit on the part of Mr. Turner to say that larger exports in the U.S. now assured by the agreement will in some way affect our sovereignty and social structure.

As history proves, it is small coun-

tries like Canada with strong economies and large exports which remain free and strong, e.g. Scandinavian countries.

Would Canadians, knowing John Turner's record as Minister of Finance in the Trudeau Government in the 1970s, trust him to govern them?

During his tenure as Minister of Finance:

1. Inflation rose to 10.6 per cent.
2. Unemployment increased to 164,000.
3. The Canadian deficit rose from \$431 million to \$4.8 billion.

Is it any wonder he left politics and returned to his law practice in Toronto?

The world has become a small Global Trading Community and Canada in the future will only prosper by exporting to all the major world markets. The Free Trade Agreement, which gives Canada an assured market of 250 million people is the basis we need for exports to overseas markets.

All Canadians owe a debt of gratitude to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his Agreement for

their great achievement.

CAMERON C. HILLMER
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Who can we believe?

Dear Editor:

Next week, our country will go to the polls for what could turn out to be one of the most important elections in our history. Never have Canadians been so polarized over one issue as they are over the free trade agreement. What will our reaction be to all the information and disinformation with which we have been bombarded?

David Peterson is against the deal. The premier of Ontario is a powerful and intelligent man. He has a wealth of information to draw on and many people working for him to get whatever data he needs to formulate his decision. He says this is a terrible deal for Canada.

Robert Bourassa and seven other premiers favour the deal. Presumably, these gentlemen all have similar abilities to gather in-

formation to formulate their opinions of this deal.

Simon Reisman supports the deal. This is the same man who brought us the Auto Pact. Nobody argues the Auto Pact is not good for Canada, although there was controversy when it was introduced. Why would this man sell us out this time? Bob White and Shirley Carr represent thousands of Canadian workers. Surely, they have the best interest of their workers at heart when they say the deal is the selling out of Canada.

John Turner and Ed Broadbent are important people in our society. They are certainly patriotic Canadians who only want what is best for our country. They say our social programs, our medicare, are at risk if this deal is allowed to go through.

Emmett Hall, whom the newspapers referred to as the "father" of medicare, says there is nothing in this deal that would jeopardize our social programs. Why would the father be willing to sacrifice his "child"? Would he not shout from the highest mountaintop his objection if he thought medicare was at risk?

What I am trying to say, and I am

only an average Canadian, is can we possibly make a rational decision? No one really knows what effect this trade agreement will have unless we try it (this is Donald MacDonald's "leap of faith" argument).

It is obvious that given time, the opposing sides in this argument will each line up thousands of "experts" to tell us the deal is good or bad. These "experts" are all eminent, respected people who have Canada's best interest at heart. Not one of them is willing to sell our Canadian identity. Each of them believes the deal is bad or good for Canada and have said so. The "experts" can reach no consensus.

We are not the experts and are the ones who are being asked to make this decision. When we go to the polls on Nov. 21, it is up to us to decide which course our country will take.

When I cast my ballot, I will look beyond the trade deal and also consider who has done the best job in the past years and who I think will best represent us in the future. I will vote for the party that gives me the most optimistic outlook on the future.

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