

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Peter Myers [SMTP:myers@cyberone.com.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2000 6:53 AM  
**To:** jsct@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** WTO Treaty

21 Blair St,  
Watson ACT 2602  
02 62475187  
myers@cyberone.com.au  
22/8/00.

The Secretary, Joint Parliamentary Committee on U. N. Treaties  
Dear Secretary,

The dropping of tariffs, and controls over capital flows, means that the government of a country, which the electors expect to represent them, has little control over the economy of that country. This is an infringement of democracy. If the economy is passed to the hands of foreign investors, it will operate in their interest, not that of the people of that country.

Democracy does not merely mean "Voting every three years"; it means rule by the people. The people want the country to operate in their interest - especially its economy.

Richard Cobden led Britain to the "Free Trade" pathway 150 years ago; yet his motives, revealed in a speech to the British Parliament, seems more political than economic. He advocated "Free Trade" because he thought that it would lead to the world becoming "one country". No more wars, a sort of return to a "Tower of Babel" scenario.

But who suffers from this? Those thrown on the scrap-heap.

Slavery, surely, is rejected by all Multiculturalists. Yet what is Slavery, if not the Denial of Decision-Making over most of one's own life? Surely this applies not only to the obvious examples in the Roman Empire and the British Empire, but also to medieval states where serfs were bound to the land, to the Soviet Union to some extent, and even to the current extreme laissez-faire Capitalism, where those at the bottom find themselves slaves of their circumstances.

Of course, those experiencing the deprivation are not the articulate classes writing newspaper columns, and therefore the middle classes do not receive much feedback from those experiencing the greatest hardship. A formal approach, which defines away the problem, is all too easy.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Myers

--

Peter Myers, 21 Blair St Watson 2602 Australia, ph +61-2-62475187.