

Forum

Free Trade Agreement is Expensive

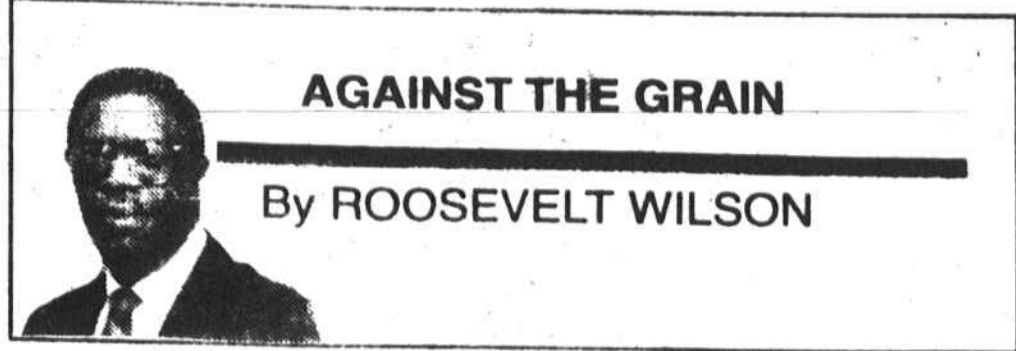
U.S. businesses are hailing the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement as a significant boon that will benefit all three countries involved. But U.S. labor unions and Florida's commissioner of agriculture are among those opposing the proposed agreement, citing a devastating effect it will have on employment and the Florida agriculture industry.

If approved by the governments of the United States, Canada and Mexico, the

NAFTA. "Crawford added, "This is not the right trade agreement."

In an emotional appeal, Crawford told the committee: "You see, Florida farmers can recover from an act of God. They're well-practiced at it. They know it comes with the territory. But they don't understand how their own government can intentionally impose this kind of double-whammy...A "second storm" with just as powerful an economic punch."

He told the panel: "It sacrifices jobs that we will never recover. And it sacrifices our agricultural self-sufficiency. Simply stated, we will lose the ability to feed



AGAINST THE GRAIN

By ROOSEVELT WILSON

NAFTA would go into effect Jan 1, 1994, and would remove all tariffs and other barriers to trade, services and investment among the three countries, creating the world's largest free trade zone.

It allows U.S. automakers, for example, to trade freely with Mexico and Canada, and it eliminates tough restrictions on U.S. auto makers, for example, to trade freely with Mexico and Canada, and it eliminates tough restrictions on U.S. auto exports to Mexico. In addition, representatives from heavy equipment, computer and pharmaceutical industries say the pact will make them more competitive on the world market. Labor unions and environmental groups opposed the pact, however, saying it will eliminate American jobs as business relocate to Mexico to take advantage of the lower wages.

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Bob Crawford lashed out at the agreement in testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture last month, comparing the agreement's economic blow to Hurricane Andrew.

"The single biggest obstacle we face in convincing (Florida) farmers to replace and rebuild after Hurricane Andrew...is Hurricane

our own people."

Crawford and Florida's agribusiness leaders urge Congress to vote against the agreement unless it is modified to take into consideration its impact on Florida's agriculture industry.

By the government's own formula, the agreement will cost Florida one-third of its \$6 billion agriculture industry and some 54,000 jobs.

What's free about that trade agreement?

Floridians, and perhaps North Carolinians, indeed need to take a look at the agreement and encourage our congressional leaders to examine closely its impact on the Sunshine State.

Across this nation - at every football game, on every college and school campus, at churches, in grocery store - people are joining hands contributing to the Hurricane Andrew relief efforts, trying to help Floridians get back on their feet.

Why, then is the Bush administration, meanwhile, trying to ram through a "Free" trade agreement that could effectively bankrupt these same Floridians and other agricultural states?

Perot Champions Black Cause While Bush and Clinton Ignore It

Ross Perot's entry into the presidential race has disrupted the tacit agreement between Gov. Bill Clinton and President George Bush to evade the two most important problems in America today: the federal deficit and the Third World condition of many U.S. Blacks, caused by institutional racism and poverty.

An irony of all ironies, Clinton, the governor of one of only two states without a civil rights law, is carrying the Black vote by a 15 to 1 margin over Bush who rarely refers to Blacks at all.

Democrats go after the Black and Brown votes. Republicans go after the White vote. "Perot writes. When he updates his book, he may mention that the Democrats in 1992 have also adopted the strategy of "Whites Only."

Perot has explains that we cannot win the economic competition with the rest of the world if we do not do it as a team; that's why racism and racial strife will hurt us all. "We're stuck with one another."

"Where there are disadvantages, we must put our brains and our resources into helping people overcome them. We must put

a ladder down into the worst area of our inner cities," the Texas billionaire challenges White America.



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

Both the Democrat and Republican candidates fear losing votes from White people if they show compassion for Blacks (or even mention them) and both are more interested in their political careers than in the economic viability and future of the country. Therefore, they make promises of something for nothing, knowing they will get more votes than by offering the sacrifice and pain prescription of Ross Perot.

Even Perot's staunchest critics admit that his economic program, demanding sacrifice and discipline, offers more realistic hope for long-term growth than either Bush's or Clinton's plan. But still neither will discuss in public what this country is doing to Black people.

Ironically, the man now famous in the minds of most Blacks for his "you people" gaffe at the NAACP convention, has the genuine approach to solving the problems that afflict Blacks specifically.

His plan for doing so is contained in his book, "United We Stand," that explains his proposals for reducing the deficit and increasing U.S. productivity.

"Our two political parties try to divide our country to win elections. The

"If you're White," Perot pleads with the reader of his book, "read my position here and in Chapter Five. Show it to friends who are Black or Hispanic or Asian, and ask them to think it over."

"Is it enough? What more can we do? Argue over it. This is the kind of open, positive debate we've avoided for too long," Perot exhorts.

Because of Ross Perot, all Americans have won, no matter who wins the election, because he has forced Bush and Clinton to address our number one economic problem. Blacks specifically, and the entire nation, will also win if he can also coerce Bush and Clinton to admit that Blacks are citizens of the United States.

"The melting pot is our strength, not our weakness," Ross Perot reminds the Democrats and the Republicans.

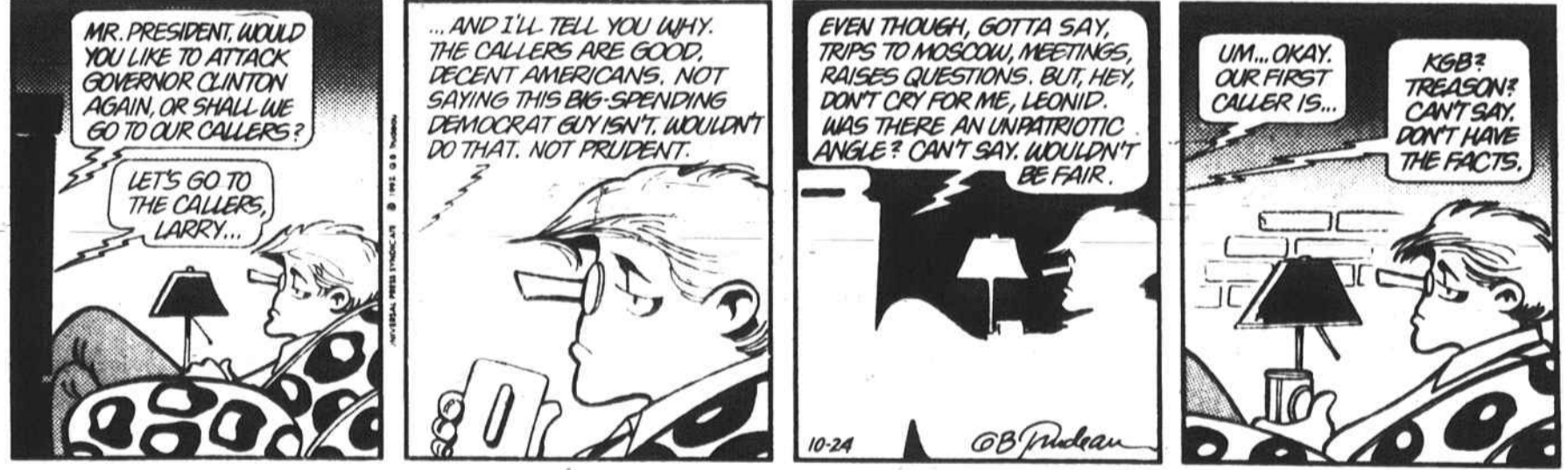
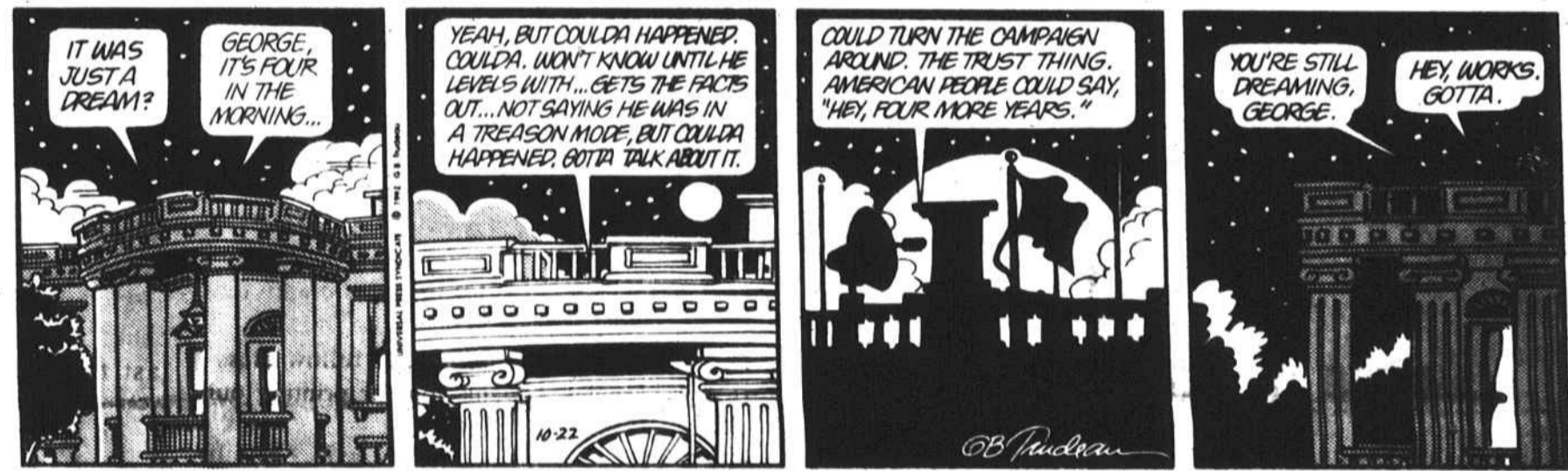
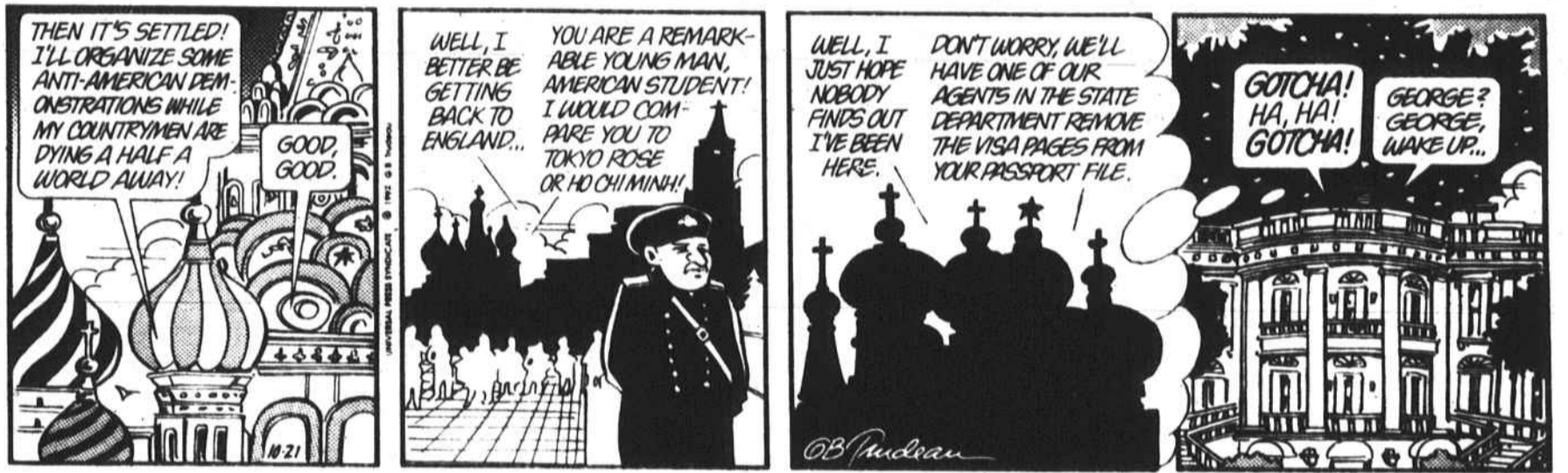
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BY G.B. TRUDEAU



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