

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 18, 1993

OPPOSITION TO NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Harry Thomas, 17 North Central Avenue, Lodi, presented a letter to the City Council (which is on file in the City Clerk's office) expressing his opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement and informed the public that he is circulating petitions to send to Congress to stop this effort.

FILE NO. ~~CC-6~~ AND CC-16

cc 6
cc 16

August 18, 1993

Lodi City Council;
Gentlemen;

I am a retired ceramic tile contractor, and my address is 17 N Central Ave. Lodi Ca. I am a founding member of the United We Stand America organization. I ask your indulgence tonight to address the issue of The North American Free Trade Agreement, and it's effect on the citizens of Lodi. I have no personal axe to grind because of my opposition to this agreement, only that of a veteran of two wars who loves his country and fellow citizens. I truly believe this agreement is bad for the nation as a whole.

I have a list of over 1100 of the largest businesses and corporations and banks in this country that are members of an organization named U S A (NAFTA) This organization was formed for the primary purpose of promoting NAFTA. General Mills is a member of USA_(NAFTA) I wish to stress the fact that I know of no plan for General Mills to close their Lodi plant, but here are some of the advantages they would have in closing the plant here, and moving to Mexico.

I have absolutely no idea of the size of General Mills payroll, but using common sense, it has an enormous effect on the economy of Lodi.

The minimum wage in Mexico is 58¢ an hour. Any environmental standards they have are not enforced. Safety standards are nonexistent. They are prohibited from organizing any type of union. There is no such thing as social security, pensions, unemployment insurance or any type of health care. In order to attract business, Mexico will grant huge tax breaks to companies locating there. Our government has placed so many mandatory restrictions on business in the United States, that relocating in Mexico is very attractive, to say the least. Companies will move there and enjoy huge profits for their stock holders, and the Mexican economy will boom. The U S economy will suffer and our standard of living will erode even more. All of this to satisfy special interests who do not care one bit about the average American. Mexico has spent millions lobbying this one sided agreement. For those who do not realize it, lobbying is nothing more than legalized bribery. What other reason does a Congress person have to listen to lobbyists but money? It is that simple.

Mexico's gross national product is 4% of the United States GNP. Does it make any common sense to have equal trade under those circumstances? Of course not! Canada has a whole country between the Mexican border and theirs. Mexican trucks will use our highways to transport their exports to their country. That is great for Canada, but how about our gas taxes paying for those highways?

There is one simple fact staring the American public in the face! We are being sold out to the special interests again. Lodi in particular should be greatly concerned. Every citizen in our city will be effected if this stupid agreement is ratified by Congress! Every one of us should notify our Congress persons of their opposition to this abortion of such a one-sided trade agreement! I am personally circulating petitions to send to Congress. Please join me in my efforts!

Thank You
Harry Thomas
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