

Gilbert Ullrich

CEO of Ullrich Industries and Ullrich Aluminium Company Ltd
Major New Zealand Exporter with manufacturing facilities on
both sides of the Tasman

Over One Billion Dollars in aluminium product sales over the
20 Years since its beginnings

Address to Wanganui Rotary Club - 30/8/1999

Excerpts from his speech notes :

"The figures announced last week that 22,500 Kiwis (which is nearly the population of a city the size of Wanganui) left NZ for Australia, and in my mind this is appalling loss to our country, Which is being conveniently overlooked - Australia really owes NZ for the skilled people & personnel we provide.

"Currently on our domestic economy we know from the artificial hype or phoney theatricals that our Wellington Trade policy makers are just out of touch with the rest of the world. It's really amazing that after so many years they have finally noticed nearly every OECD country passing us. Ideas like assisting Korea's finance problems - a proposed \$ 200m loan last year to assist our competitors is just plain stupid, their growth this year is expected to be 9%.

"I have personally seen multi-million of dollars worth of good export sales lost over recent years, simply because NZ does not have a similar export trade & finance facility, such as EFIC in Australia or proper venture capital.

"Growth of Small Business is very important - most overseas countries have experienced government ministries & ministers for this purpose, no doubt realising that 2/3rd of world business and trade is now in the hands of multi-nationals, and this is now becoming a major problem for small/medium NZ companies in getting a "toe-hold" overseas.

"Quite naturally I have noticed a point of interest in the parallel growth of our country's economy - if the past or present coalition government & Business Round Table believes their policies create opportunities & benefits, then why has unemployment increased from 45,000 to 200,000 since 1984 and the national debt from \$18 billion to now over \$100 billion ?

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