

Relations with United States

Turning to our relations with our neighbour and good friend, the United States, I shall endeavour to confine my remarks to certain matters which are of current interest. Within the past two weeks a signal event occurred when the President of the United States joined with Her Majesty the Queen at the opening ceremonies of the St. Lawrence Seaway. It was a happy occasion, and the importance of good relations between the two countries was underlined by the realization of what could be done to the advantage of both in co-operation. The personal and friendly relations which existed among Her Majesty, the President, the Prime Minister and the Ministers of the two Governments--and I might add the Leader of the Opposition and other very responsible citizens of Canada and the United States--were evident as together we took part in the opening ceremonies and other events of that day. It seemed to me that in many ways we were paralleling the experiences of numerous families, business firms, service clubs and other organizations in our friendly approach to matters of common concern.

A particular parallel is, of course, present in my mind. The opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway was chosen as a convenient occasion for a meeting of the legislators of the two countries, to which I made some reference in my opening remarks. May I take this occasion to pay tribute to the members of the interparliamentary group who examined together many of the facets of the relations between the United States and Canada, and whose serious and constructive approach will, I am sure, be reflected in discussions of matters affecting the two countries as these are dealt with from time to time in our respective legislative bodies. A sound basis of understanding one another's points of view together with an objective attempt to determine what is the real national and international interest in each question will, I am sure, pay untold benefits.

The boundary water problems between the two nations are receiving urgent attention, especially that concerning the development of the waters of the Colombia River basin, a problem to which the International Joint Commission has been devoting active consideration for some years. In January of this year, 1959, the two Governments requested that the Commission should report specifically and quickly with respect to the principles which might be applied by governments to two matters; first, the calculation of the benefits accruing in the downstream country in consequences of the storage and regulated release of water in the upstream country; second, the allocation between the two countries of these benefits.

Although no formal report has so far been made to governments by the Commission, the chairmen are keeping their respective governments informed of the course of their deliberations. As hon. members are aware, the Commission does