

WRONG: Membership on the Board is equal. The status of the two countries is exactly the same.

ATHERTON: There's a very interesting point about the Board, Mr. Fisher, that I doubt is known. As I said, it was constituted back in 1940. So far nothing has ever come to a vote.

FISHER: Just what does that mean?

ATHERTON: All questions with which the Board has dealt so far have been talked out around the table until a unanimous viewpoint was finally reached.

WRONG: You don't mean, Atherton, that we've never disagreed, of course?

ATHERTON: Naturally, there have been many initial disagreements and differences of opinion, but they are always ironed out in friendly fashion.

FISHER: I should think the Board wouldn't be of much value if there had not been disagreements to reconcile.

ATHERTON: My point is that these differences have been talked out so that, as I said, a vote has never had to be taken. And, it's also interesting I think to note that when these differences have cropped up, it hasn't always been Canadian members divided against American. Quite often the split has been with the Canadian and American military members on one side and the American and Canadian naval members on the other.

WRONG: I think it ought to be pointed out that there is nothing mysterious about the Board, Mr. Fisher. And it cannot commit either government to any course of action.

ATHERTON: No. All it can do is recommend. And its name is strictly accurate. It is a defense board. It is not in any way concerned with offensive action. The questions it considers and on which it makes recommendations are questions that deal with the defense of North America.

WRONG: And it is not set up as an agency which tells people what to do. It is much more correctly thought of as a committee which talks