

Mr. THATCHER: You have not been able to find any alternative sources yet, is that it?

Mr. LESAGE: Have you looked for them? You better ask him that.

*By Mr. Thatcher:*

Q. You say you haven't found an alternative source of supply yet, have you looked for it?—A. On specifically what?

Q. Grapefruit and lemons.—A. I said that we can secure Italian lemons; we can get all the Italian lemons we want. In so far as oranges are concerned, the only place I know of where we can get these supplementary supplies is from Brazil and there are some coming, but the steamship service is very, very irregular. In so far as grapefruit are concerned, Jamaica did have a few boxes of grapefruit to offer but her prices were so much higher than the comparative price on American produce that we didn't want to take them.

*By Mr. Lesage:*

Q. Did you try North Africa?—A. I do not believe there are any there. If I may correct you, South African oranges and South African grapefruit have come here before the war during the months, if I recall correctly, of August or September.

*By Mr. Thatcher:*

Q. If you went after some of these alternative supplies and tried to get them in quantity would that not help to bring the price down for these things in Canada? It would greatly enlarge the supply that is allowed under the quota?—A. I consider buying citrus ten days away speculative enough. I would not want to venture our company's capital on bringing in huge quantities of foreign citrus.

*By Mr. Lesage:*

Q. You mean outside of the United States?—A. I am sorry, outside of the United States.

*By Mr. Thatcher:*

Q. You think it is safe to risk spending large amounts of money in the United States to bring it in, but you are afraid to risk it in say the British sterling countries?—A. First of all you have got to remember we have got a ten day run from California to the eastern seaboard. From California oranges take ten days to get here. Let us assume Australia did have oranges and we wanted to bring them in. In order to get refrigerator space we would have to contract, if it was available, for possibly 20,000 or 25,000 boxes. Then we would have to gamble on the condition for six weeks. In addition to that we would have to gamble on the stability of the market for six weeks. That would be too terrific a gamble.

Q. A good many of the alternative sources are not feasible?—A. I would not say whether they were feasible or not. I say as far as our company is concerned I would be against that type of operation.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. Would it be fair to say, Mr. Crelinsten, that some of these alternative sources may look promising enough to somebody sitting in Ottawa with books and papers in front of him, but to a man in business as you are, who is expected to risk his capital in importing them, they do not appear to be practical alternatives at all?—A. I would not care to make that type of statement. I would