

*The Address—Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent*

hon. gentleman that the tone of our conversation and the character of the relationship was somewhat better than would have resulted from any blasting that might have occurred.

I can assure the hon. gentleman first of all that I expressed some considerable gratification at the fact that he had been able to turn down the recommendation of the tariff board there that there be such an increase in tariff on fish from our Canadian fisheries as would seriously interfere with the continuance of that trade which is very vital to a substantial portion of the population of the Atlantic area. I was very glad to find that the President agreed with the suggestion that had been made to me that the difficulties of the New England fishermen were not due so much to the fact that there was fish coming in from Canada and there was also some coming in from Iceland but were due to the fact that they had rather exhausted their fisheries and therefore their costs of producing fish in their own boats had considerably increased and had got beyond what both the Icelandic fishermen and the Canadian fishermen could supply fish for in that market even with the tariff that was already in existence.

I was very glad to receive the impression that the President was quite conscious of the importance of the Canadian market to the United States trading nation and I must confess that he was rather surprised when I said to him that in the course of the present year it looked as if we were going to import from the United States almost a billion dollars' worth of goods more than they were going to buy from us and that was a figure that seemed to astound him. I also told him I was not saying it in any plaintive way because we were getting that large volume of additional commodities because most of them were being built into productive facilities that were going up in our own country but that that was a situation which of course he realized could not continue. It was being balanced at the present time by the attractiveness of industrial development in Canada to United States capital; but that there was going to be, as a result of the investment of American capital in Canada, a very substantial increase in production and that we were buying more than we were selling at the present time just as it sometimes happens to a farmer that he buys more in the spring than he sells in the spring. But it is because he is going to use the fertilizer and seed which occasion the additional buying to have a crop that is going to be larger in the fall; and that we were going to have a crop of production in our country a portion of which

[Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East).]

was going to be the crop resulting from the investment of his own fellow citizens in the industries of our country and that there would have to be at that time a much fairer balance of trade because it could not be expected that trade with them—of course it is not a one-way street—would be so predominantly moving more northward than the volume that was moving southward.

Well, I came away with the impression that the golf game had been very enjoyable but also that there had been other aspects of the half day I spent with him that were quite more important in what I was going to remember than the golf score on the splendid golf links of Augusta.

There was another reason for which I was very happy to have this confidential chat with the President which occurred on the eve of Mr. Nehru's visit. I said to the President quite frankly that I believed he and Mr. Nehru at the present time were probably the two most influential statesmen in the world, the two statesmen whose influence radiated the most widely in the free world at this time. I said, "Of course, I am not saying anything about China because I have never been behind the bamboo curtain and I do not know Mr. Chou En-lai, but I do know, or at least I think I know from my own personal observation, that Mr. Nehru is a statesman of whom, whether or not they will admit it openly, all Asians are proud. They are proud of his stature in the world at this time, and his attitudes, even for those who will not state that they fully agree with them, are attitudes which have an influence on their thinking." I believe the same is true of the President of the United States. The personal attitudes of the President of the United States are attitudes that radiate throughout the free world, and whether or not we always agree with all of them our thinking is always influenced to a degree by the attitudes which are adopted by him.

I asserted with conviction that Mr. Nehru was just as anti-communist as Mr. Eisenhower was, although in India there was not the same fear of dangers imminent from communism that Senator McCarthy had in the United States; that there might not always be the same approaches to the proper methods of counteracting what influences might be exercised by communism; but that it should not be forgotten that the background of the United States or the North American continent was not the only background against which we should appraise the attitudes of other people throughout the world outside of the North American continent.