

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THE SENATE,

OTTAWA, Wednesday, April 22, 1953.

The Standing Committee on Canadian Trade Relations which was empowered to inquire into and report upon the development of trade between countries signatory to the North Atlantic Treaty, and with other countries of the free world, met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Hon Mr. McLEAN in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable members, I will call the meeting to order. This is the third meeting, as we all know, of the Canadian Trade Relations Committee since reference was made to us of a resolution introduced in the Senate on February 12 and, after considerable debate, was passed, and referred to us on February 26.

We have already heard the resolution read several times, and I think everybody is familiar with it.

We are highly honoured this morning to have with us representatives from the International Chamber of Commerce, Mr. D. P. Cruikshank, President of the Canadian Council, Mr. J. G. Nelles, General Manager, Mr. Carl Bergithon, Assistant to the General Manager, and Dr. D. B. Marsh, an Economist with The Royal Bank of Canada.

I am very glad to call on Mr. D. P. Cruikshank, the President of the Canadian Council of The International Chamber of Commerce, whom I understand has a brief, and if it is the will of the Committee, I will now ask Mr. Cruikshank to present his brief.

Mr. D. P. CRUIKSHANK: Mr. Chairman, and honourable gentlemen, Members of the Standing Committee of the Senate on Canadian Trade Relations, I just want to say this will be rather long, and if you would rather that I did not read it, please say so.

On behalf of the Canadian Council of the International Chamber of Commerce I should like to thank the members of this Committee for the opportunity to present the views of the International Chamber, "with respect to this general question," as your letter of February 26th, 1953, stated, "of increased multilateral trade between the nations of the free world, which is of such vital importance today." As the leading international private organization comprising all types of business, industry and commerce, the International Chamber has been particularly concerned with the question of multilateral trade for some thirty-four years since its founding in Paris, France, in 1919. The Chamber now has national sections or committees in some 30 countries, and the Canadian Council, which was established in 1945, is very pleased indeed to commend the initiative of Senator McLean and his Committee in focusing attention in Canada on the general problem of world trade.

At the outset, I should like to say that in presenting our views to the Committee we did not feel that it was necessary to review the statistical position of world trade today and its accompanying balance of payments, with the relationship of Canada thereto, as such figures will be as readily available to the Committee here in Ottawa as they are to our own group. We have also not attempted to outline the nature and scope of the various international governmental organizations dealing with the problem, such as the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank, the General Agreement on Tariffs and