

Mixed views were expressed about whether Canada should have closer or looser relations with the Americans. Those in favour of closer relations emphasized the economic benefits for Canada, in terms of increased competitiveness, the availability of cheaper consumer products and perhaps some of the "entrepreneurialism" of Americans rubbing off on Canadians. This theme emerged quite frequently among the comments of participants and is typified by the statement of one Toronto participant that "They're more like an entrepreneur. They take chances where money is concerned, whereas Canadians have all their money in the bank. Canadians are more conservative in that respect."

A proviso for support for closer relations with the United States frequently mentioned was that this was favoured as long as the Americans were prepared to become a "partner, not a commander." As one London participant put it, "If we can develop a harmonious relationship with the U.S. then that would benefit us tremendously, but I don't want them to take over though." Those against closer relations were most concerned with U.S. power and influence over Canada.