

Supply—Trade and Commerce

Your offer to represent our company in China has been noted with interest. Canadian Allis-Chalmers is a wholly owned subsidiary of Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. All of our export negotiations are handled through Mr. P. Dietz, manager, export department, industries group, Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The next letter is from United States Rubber, International, Rockefeller Centre, New York city, dated March 14, 1956:

Your letter of March 6 to Dominion Rubber Company Limited, Montreal, has been referred to me. As Dominion Rubber Company is one of our subsidiaries, we handle any export business that might be developed through Canadian organizations.

Then there is a letter from Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation, New York city, dated March 22, 1956:

Your letter of March 13 addressed to our company in Toronto has been referred to this office for acknowledgment and reply, since all matters pertaining to export are handled here.

I shall just give one more example, although I have plenty more. This letter is from Johns-Manville International, New York city, dated March 29, 1956:

Your letter March 6 addressed to Canadian Johns-Manville Company Limited has been referred to this division, since all overseas matters are our responsibility.

We thank you for your offering to assist us in sales in the Chinese market but regret that we cannot accept your kind offer.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that we in this house have a responsibility to try to find out just how widespread is this control of Canadian companies by parent companies in the United States. We should ascertain to what extent they are restricted in their desire or their potentiality for employing Canadian labour working on our Canadian resources, and their freedom to export to any market to which we have any opportunity or desire to export. I feel, Mr. Chairman, that this is not only an important matter but a very serious one. I believe that we can look upon it as a very disturbing situation. There must be some foreboding about Canadian companies, and therefore Canadian workers, being not only under the control of parent companies outside this country but also dependent upon the whims and policies of a government of another country.

I should like to ask the minister if any consideration has been given to finding out how widespread this control is with regard to exports from Canadian companies. If it is as widespread as is indicated by even the excerpts which I have placed on the record, I wonder whether any consideration is being given to establishing the necessary policy, taking the necessary steps to introduce legislation to guarantee that we have control of

our own resources, our own export policies, without domination from outside.

Mr. Fisher: The fundamental source of income, Mr. Chairman, in our particular part of the world is the pulp and paper industry and the newsprint aspect of it. One of the most disturbing things about the newsprint and pulp and paper industries has been the fact that its percentage share of its main market in the United States has been going down in relation to the expansion of that market and in relation to the expansion of United States production. Since pulp and paper products are the largest single item of export trade, being much more important even than uranium that was mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, it seems to many of us that the position in which this industry is and its trend toward having a lessened share of the United States market, and of course the world market, is perhaps the most disturbing thing on the economic horizon.

The committee on mines, forests and waters of this house was so greatly interested in this particular point that it brought before it a number of witnesses, including the president of one of the pulp and paper organizations. I refer to Mr. D. W. Ambridge, head of the Abitibi corporation. I wanted to bring to the minister's attention, if he missed it, some of the points that were made by Mr. Ambridge. I should like to qualify, before I give this point, that while I agree with this particular aspect of Mr. Ambridge's evidence there was some of it with which I disagreed. But after reviewing, through questions, the situation that he had seen in Brazil where Canadian firms were not able to compete with Swedish firms because of Swedish government facilities in dealing with Brazilian currency, Mr. Ambridge went on to say this:

The Canadians have about as much chance of selling anything in Brazil as a snowball in hell. You cannot do it because there are too many of these arrangements around. We have nothing like that.

Later on Mr. Payne of the committee asked him this question:

Are you in any way satisfied, even in an indirect way, that help is provided to your industry in the search for new markets, through a government agency? Is there such help or is there not?

I should like to point out that Mr. Payne is a member of the minister's party and that the very way in which he phrased the question suggests that he had some concern as to whether this help was available. Mr. Ambridge's answer was:

Not that I know of. The only thing I might name as being of help to us is that the government does provide statistics, through the commercial councillors at the various embassies, legations