

Hon. Mr. EULER: It suggests a free market.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: But I am thinking of it from the American point of view. If I were an American why would I open up to give Canada a market, if my own people were not going to benefit? I say there has been no suggested solution for our problem. I have attended most of these meetings, and in each presentation which was made our problem was clearly outlined—and this presentation today is perhaps the most able of them all—but such solutions as were offered could not come from Canadians, but from somebody else over whom we would have no influence.

Mr. BATEMAN: Do not forget that the national security of these two countries is dependent upon an adequate supply coming from the metal industry.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I agree with that.

Mr. BATEMAN: The experience of the war certainly showed us that the great portion of those supplies could be gotten with assurance only from North America, and particularly from Canada.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I agree with that also.

Mr. BATEMAN: If the duties are increased it raises the cost to the United States, and we destroy the opportunity of developing a market for supplies necessary to meet their requirements; and further, you add a permanent burden to the people of the United States.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I agree with all that, but it is not a solution to our problem. I do not happen to be a member of the United States Senate and you are not a United States citizen and therefore not capable of influencing their political philosophy. How are we to influence them politically so as to prevent them from doing two particular things which they are now doing? First, whenever a primary product of any kind threatens to compete with the American market, there is a loud cry and Congress then invokes a law which shuts out that commodity. And secondly—

Hon. Mr. MACLENNAN: And we can do nothing about it.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: That is what I say. I want some of these gentlemen to come forward and tell us how we are to meet the problem.

I see that the Prime Minister of Canada is going to Washington to confer with the President. Now, I am not sure that the President has as much power as some people think he has. The system of government in that country weakens the control of the executive by reason of the fact that the executive is not in a position to help control the vote. One could not imagine the House of Commons here voting for something the Prime Minister did not want. If that happened, he would be out of office; but the United States Senate have been doing that right along for the past four or five years, and are still doing it.

What do you gentlemen want us as legislators to do about this problem? And I should tell you that we are just as anxious, if not more, than you are to find a solution. Telling us the facts will help, but it is not enough. You are experts in this line: Now tell us what you would have us do.

It has been said that we have to get 15½ cents a pound for zinc and lead; therefore, we should put on a tariff to keep the price up to that figure. I note that one member of the House of Commons has offered a solution of the problem.

Hon. Mr. EULER: That is a matter of politics, and these gentlemen here are not politicians.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Everybody is a politician.

Hon. Mr. MACLENNAN: These men are no more politicians than we are. What can they do that we cannot do?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I want to know what suggestions they have to make.