

ATHERTON: Canada certainly is a major power, agriculturally and industrially, in her own right. She proved that during the war when her contribution to United Nations victory placed her very high among the democratic countries. No American who gets to know Canada at all well can possibly think of our northern neighbors as anything save a strong, friendly, sovereign state. If we take anything for granted about Canada - and I confess that Americans do take things for granted about Canada - we take that fact for granted.

FISHER: I think that is one reason why many people feel that Canadian-American relations are so difficult to get excited about.

WRONG: If that is so, why did you suggest a broadcast on them, Mr. Fisher? After all, we all know that there is a solid tie between us. When one thinks of the headlines we've been reading for years, one might say: happy the two countries whose relations keep off the front pages. Yet I imagine you'd like to have this subject on the front pages if you could.

FISHER: Of course. It would be a good model for an unhappy world to copy.

ATHERTON: It won't get on the front pages for the very reason you just gave, Mr. Wrong. Our relationship with Canada is so good it isn't news.

FISHER: If I remember correctly, however, there have been instances in our history when that was not true.

ATHERTON: It has taken more than a hundred years to reach our present sympathetic understanding, Mr. Fisher. But that doesn't mean we can afford to sit back and take that relationship too much for granted.

FISHER: Of course there are certain pretty deep economic reasons for that relationship, aren't there? It seems to me there are some striking facts about our inter-dependence economically.