

Mr. BUCK: Well, with import quotas, of course, there would be no market in the United States, which is our big market. That is one of the reasons why the import quota system is of vital concern to Canada. Regardless of how large our resources are, and how aggressive our mining companies are, if there is a set figure on exports, then there is no possibility of marketing increased production.

Mr. NIELSEN: Assuming the removal of restrictions now in existence, and assuming Pine Point production, can you answer the question?

Mr. BUCK: In the long term, I would say no consumption is increasing. The short term is not quite as good, because world production is quite in excess of consumption.

Mr. NIELSEN: Am I correct in saying that there is every reason to expect a market for the Pine Point resource, for sale in the United States in a few years,—assuming the removal of these restrictions in the United States?

Mr. BUCK: Well, would you define "a few years"?

Mr. NIELSEN: Let us say, in the next 10 years.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Buck, could you tell us—

Mr. NIELSEN: Could I have an answer to that question; let us say, in the next 10 years.

Mr. BUCK: Yes, in my considered opinion it would be; but it would probably be closer to the 10 years.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Could you give us a figure showing how many lead and zinc mines in Canada are closed down at this time,—that is, mines that were in operation two years ago and are now closed?

Mr. BUCK: I cannot give you a firm figure, but there would not be very many—perhaps only four or five.

Mr. NIELSEN: Some have since reopened, have they not?

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Do we not have a number of mines closed in Canada, mines which are easily accessible in the matter of transportation? Those mines are closed down on account of the lack of markets, or on account of the present situation of the market—that is, the base metals market? I have in mind particularly in my own constituency the Brunswick Mining and Smelting, and Heath-Steele, in Northumberland, a few miles away, where they have perhaps a hundred million tons of potential minerals, and they are closed down due to a lack of market.

Mr. BUCK: There was one mine in production at Bathurst, for a short period of time.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: And Brunswick was ready to operate.

Mr. NIELSEN: What is the answer to Mr. Robichaud's question?

Mr. BUCK: I am not certain whether I understood it.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: The question was this, that in view of the fact that we had a number of mines—and you are going to give us the figure tomorrow—a number of base metal mines which have been forced to close down, on account of the market condition, should we not expect these mines to be in operation, on account of their easily accessible transportation facilities before, let us say, Pine Point mine, which has been mentioned?

Mr. BUCK: Of course transportation is only one item in the picture. Grade also enters into it, and the difficulty or lack of difficulty in extracting the metals.

Mr. NIELSEN: And then, would not this also be true, that if the transportation was intended only for the purpose of exploiting mineral resources, this would have some significance. But transportation, for instance in the Pine Point area, is intended for other reasons as well, different factors that would come into play and affect the answer.