

are proceeding at the present time. My information is that Britain is willing to continue the wheat and cheese contracts, but is not very keen about buying butter, bacon, eggs, poultry and other commodities which we have in abundance and are ready to sell. All these questions should be considered, because the people of Canada are anxious for a wider world trade.

I repeat what I said yesterday, that in Canada three out of eight persons are engaged in producing or manufacturing for trade purposes. At the same time there is an ingrained feeling here that we must protect our people against exploitation of one kind and another. It is felt that the men and women of this country who work with their hands must be protected against the lower living standards which prevail in other countries. That is fundamental in our people.

The honourable leader of the government pointed out that we might adopt an agreement which, for instance, would be satisfactory to the Maritimes and the Prairie Provinces, but which would be strongly opposed by Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. We must survey the whole field and decide what agreement is best in the interest of the country as a whole. In order to get the best agreement we must do as the negotiators did at Geneva—make concessions.

I am not as enthusiastic about the American market as is my honourable friend. He may be right—possibly there is a change in the attitude of the people of that country—but I believe progress in the matter of markets will be slow. There is a rising tide of sentiment in the United States which may carry the Republican party into office next fall. If that should happen, the element which believes in protection for its own people only will be in the ascendancy. Whether outstanding men, such as Senator Vandenberg, can hold back that tide, I do not know. I hope they can.

I am in whole-hearted agreement with the suggestion that this matter should be referred to a committee, and in saying this I am sure I speak for the members of this side of the house. We are for world trade, not only because it is beneficial in itself, but for the reason that we believe it will help the cause of peace. I want that to be clearly understood. At the same time, while supporting the reference of this subject to a committee, or whatever other procedure the government leader has in mind, I ask, not only for myself and my associates, but for the people of Canada, that there shall be a full and complete investigation of the agreements. They will be much more effectively supported if the people of

Canada know what they are and what they are designed to do. In committee we must not be afraid to criticize, and we must welcome criticism, so that all the problems involved may be thoroughly understood. I repeat that I heartily support the idea of sending the question to a committee, and I suggest to the leader that the chairman of whatever committee he selects—

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: The Canadian Trade Relations Committee.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: —should get in touch with the appropriate persons in the other place and see whether a joint arrangement cannot be made for the consideration of the agreements. Thereby public money and the time of officials would be saved, and the importance of the investigation increased.

Hon. NORMAN P. LAMBERT: I wish to take a moment or two of the time of the house to refer to one outstanding general aspect—

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: May I interrupt my honourable friend? It has occurred to me that honourable senators who speak now on this general agreement may thereby deprive themselves of the right to speak on it at a later stage. The thought is in my mind, and I submit it for consideration, that I should ask leave to revert to the item of "Motions", and move that this matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Canadian Trade Relations. This would enable honourable senators who wish to speak at this time to speak on the motion, and at the same time it would preserve their right to discuss the present resolution after they have had further information. The resolution itself could stand adjourned, perhaps at the instance of my honourable friend opposite. Then, should anybody now wish to discuss the subject generally he could speak on the motion of reference without being precluded from discussing the general resolution later on.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: That would be all right if His Honour the Speaker would allow us the necessary latitude. There is much to commend the suggestion of the leader of the government, but I would point out that a resolution to refer the subject-matter to a committee scarcely provides sufficiently wide scope for a discussion of the merits and demerits of the proposed agreement. However, the course suggested is quite satisfactory to me. I hope that in so expressing myself I am not exhausting my right to speak on the agreements.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I do not think we need be unduly technical. It seems to me that, with the permission of His Honour