



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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No. 52/21 PRESENT STATUS OF PRIORITIES AND CONTROLS
IN CANADA

A speech by the Co-ordinator of Materials, Department of Defence Production, Mr. H.H. Saunderson, delivered to the 81st Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, in Toronto, May 29, 1952.

...Those of you who have been more directly connected with matters of control and priorities will of course realize that our system is somewhat less formal than that in effect in the United States. Because of the more compact nature of our industry it has been possible for us to avoid the extended series of control orders and regulations which have been a necessary part of the operations of the National Production Authority in the United States. To a much greater extent than they have found possible, we have been able to rely on informal methods, frequently by telephone, to achieve the necessary arrangements for the allocation of scarce materials and products. I should like at this time to express my own personal thanks to you, as representatives of Canadian industry, for the co-operation and assistance which we have received in dealing with these matters. I think it is only proper to say that we have been greatly pleased and sometimes even surprised at the willingness of individuals and companies in the industrial field to assist so wholeheartedly in the task which we have had to do.

The nature of our controls has been necessarily tied in to some extent to the controls which the United States Government has invoked, particularly for those items where a substantial part of our supplies come from the United States. Indeed, in the joint declaration of the United States and Canadian Governments of October, 1950, it was agreed that the two Governments would co-operate in providing similar controls for those materials which were of joint interest in the development of our defensive strength. It was agreed at that time that each of the countries would accord to the other comparable treatment in the allocation of materials and supplies, and I should like to express to our American friends our appreciation for their generosity and willingness in dealing with our claims on them for items which have been in scarce supply. We have tried, of course, to reciprocate and we have always found the utmost cordiality in our dealings with United States officials.

Because our controls are thus linked to the U.S. system in many fields, I thought I should say a little bit about their system of controls as a background to my discussion of the Canadian picture. Initially the United States Authorities instituted a system of priorities based on the DO symbols, and