

some people in Canada, played down preferences generally throughout the Commonwealth. It appears that this is going to be repeated all over again. Are we taking any steps in Canada to see how Commonwealth preferences affect us, or whether they affect us at all? I don't know. But it does seem to me that somebody should be saying, "Just a minute before you start bargaining with preferences which affect us; surely you will consult us; we are principals."

Mr. HOLMES: I would agree very strongly. It is an important and indeed a very complex matter. I don't know whether Mr. English touched on it or the substance of it last week.

Senator O'LEARY (*Carleton*): Unfortunately I was unable to be here last week.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we would like to have your comments on this matter because everybody here at the last meeting was interested in this problem.

Mr. HOLMES: I would rather leave it to economists like Mr. English.

Senator CROLL: I was not here last week either, but it strikes me that the question of the entry into the Common Market has now been a matter of debate for a period of two or three years—a debate in which Canada has seen fit not to participate, and the question raised by Senator O'Leary (*Carleton*) has been raised time and time again, and no one seems worried about the preferences that we seem to enjoy or not to enjoy as the case may be. Are they worth while? Is there anything to protest about? I have not heard anything in this country nor have I heard anything about it from Australia.

Senator O'LEARY (*Carleton*): We have heard about it from New Zealand.

Senator CROLL: I did not mention New Zealand—that is different.

Senator O'LEARY (*Carleton*): There was a question raised about it by Mr. McEwen, Secretary of Commerce at the time. But there was no complaint on behalf of Canada.

Senator CROLL: Is there anything to protest about?

Senator O'LEARY (*Carleton*): That is what I want to know. Mr. Wilson said he would have regard for our interests.

Senator MACKENZIE: And Mr. Macmillan said the same thing, that he would have as much regard as possible so far as the interests of others were concerned.

Senator O'LEARY (*Carleton*): But does that mean we should not say anything? Shall we let it go by default? Surely there must be some figures available to give us information on these points.

Senator MACKENZIE: It would be interesting to bring somebody here to give us some economic background to this. I think we are talking about something on which we have insufficient information. I have a question which may not be pertinent, and if it is not you do not have to answer it. I have heard it suggested that what is known as the French community is making overtures, or France is on its behalf making overtures to England to bring it into the E.E.C. Is that French community, particularly the French African community more of a community than the English-language community in Africa?

Mr. HOLMES: It has always been much more tightly tied to France. The French, although these countries are independent, are much more active. They have also been giving a greater amount of assistance, technical and otherwise, and administrative assistance. I think it is much more of a unit.

Senator MACKENZIE: Would this include Algiers, Tunisia and Morocco?

Mr. HOLMES: I don't think so. I was at the Commonwealth Conference in Lagos a few years ago, and the Commonwealth African countries were very much concerned about this. What they feared at that time was that the French