

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, very much. We are open for discussion and questions which you would like to ask Mr. Sheils.

Mr. SHEILS: Might I say, Mr. Chairman, that the reason for having this group of experts with me this morning is that on many of these questions I might feel that they could give a better answer than I could, and I would like to feel free to call on them.

The CHAIRMAN: Certainly, sir.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: Mr. Chairman, I think that the witness has given a very fine submission to the committee, and I think we are greatly indebted to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

I should like to ask the witness or some member of the delegation what has been done in working with comparable organizations of other western nations to achieve the ends which you have suggested.

Mr. SHEILS: You are speaking of other associations of manufacturers?

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: Yes, I am.

Mr. SHEILS: Mr. Leach, would you care to answer that question? Mr. Leach is chairman of our commercial intelligence committee.

Mr. W. K. LEACH: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I can speak on that question through my experience with the Inter-American Council which is an organization comprising all countries of South, Central and North America. They hold their meetings in different countries. I had the pleasure a year ago of speaking before that group in Houston, Texas. It was sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers of the United States. Their get-together is for the purpose of exchanging ideas and talking about trade between the different countries. The Canadian Manufacturers Association holds a membership in that organization. This past November they held a meeting in Lima, Peru. I had planned on going, but was unable to do so. Mr. Cathers of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association went down and spoke before that group. We have had many interesting letters from them. I have personally made friends amongst this group, and they seem to take pleasure in writing letters. The purpose is to extend trade throughout all the Americas. If there are any further questions on that point, I shall be glad to go further.

Hon. Mr. EULER: Mr. Chairman, the former speaker dealt with GATT—the general agreement for tariffs and trade. Do you think that venture has been successful? I know you have stated that we ought to continue all such relationships for the purpose of forwarding international trade. You have been following GATT's various meetings, and you have stated that many of the European countries have taken advantage of, I suppose, the escape clauses which have had the result of preventing imports into their country, and also into the United States. In view of all that, do you think that so far as you have gone, GATT has been successful?

Mr. SHEILS: We would be the first, sir, to say that GATT has had a reasonable measure of success. We would not in any way claim they have been entirely successful. Human nature being what it is, I think progress must be slow—

Hon. Mr. EULER: And politics being what they are.

Mr. SHEILS: And possibly some manufacturers being what they are—progress must be made slowly. However, we do feel that a measure of progress has been made. Perhaps Mr. Macdonnell would have something to say on that point.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Mr. Lang has better knowledge of that subject than I.