

APPENDIX

REPORT OF FOURTH MEETING OF CANADA-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

General

A further meeting of the Canada-United States interparliamentary group was held in Ottawa and Quebec city from Wednesday, February 22, to Sunday, February 26, inclusive.

This was the fourth meeting of the group which continued its procedures of having informal, off the record discussions and refrained from making recommendations, leaving it to each national delegation to make such reports and recommendations to its respective legislatures as it determines.

The group met in plenary sessions on Thursday morning and Friday afternoon. Committee meetings were held on both days. Committees discussed the following subject areas:

- (1) Defence co-operation and disarmament;
- (2) Trade and economic matters; and
- (3) Boundary matters, cultural affairs and foreign policy matters of common concern.

At the first plenary session, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Hon. Howard Green, gave a brief address of welcome. Later in the day the United States delegates visited both houses of parliament and were welcomed in the House of Commons by addresses given by the Prime Minister, Right Hon. John G. Diefenbaker, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Lester B. Pearson and the C.C.F. leader, Mr. Hazen Argue, and in the Senate by the Speaker and honourable Senators Walter M. Aseltine, W. Ross Macdonald and others. At a lunch on Friday, given by the Speaker of the House of Commons in historic room 16 in the parliament buildings, the Prime Minister, Hon. Lionel Chevrier, Senator George Aiken and Representative Cornelius E. Gallagher spoke at a ceremony to dedicate a plaque to be installed there in commemoration of the first formal meeting of Canadian and United States parliamentarians in that same room in 1943. On Friday evening the government of Canada gave a dinner for the group in the parliamentary restaurant to which all members of the Senate and House of Commons were invited. In addition, there was a lunch for the delegates given by the Speaker of the Senate and a program of lunches, receptions and tours for the wives.

On Saturday and Sunday the group visited Quebec city to see something of winter life in la belle province. The weatherman was more than co-operative. He let loose an unusually severe blizzard which disrupted all

transportation and delayed the return of the delegations to their capitals until Monday.

Committee discussions

The discussion in the committees, the personnel of which is shown in Appendix A, was frank and animated, but was always carried on with complete good humour and respect for divergent views. Some differences were reconciled, others were explained and modified in the course of exchange of information and opinion. There was nothing to limit discussion other than time itself, and most of the important problems which could be said to disturb our neighbourly co-operation came up for attention. The scope of these discussions in the committees is indicated by the reports which are set out in Appendix B, in the form in which they were approved at the final plenary session and released in a joint press statement on February 24th.

Conclusions

All delegates appeared to be well satisfied with this latest interparliamentary exchange and convinced of the usefulness of this approach to joint problems and differences as well as of the soundness of the decision that two meetings of the group should be held annually, one in each country. The hope was expressed that the second meeting in 1961 could be held in Washington during the present session of congress.

It is noteworthy that in the first four meetings the change in personnel of the delegations has been such that no less than 52 members of congress and 55 members of the Canadian parliament have already participated.

The wives of most of the delegates have accompanied them. It has been well said that this more than doubles the effectiveness of the exchange in the promotion of good will and understanding.

In submitting this report we wish to express our appreciation of the co-operation and assistance of officials of the various departments of the Canadian government who have helped us with the organization of the meetings and in our preparation for the discussions.

Dated at Ottawa, May 2nd, 1961.

Mark Drouin
Speaker of the Senate

Roland Michener
Speaker of the
House of Commons

Joint Chairmen.