

and we are not at an international conference tonight.

FISHER: However that may be, I hope that, despite being diplomats, both of you will talk very frankly on this program, so that at the end of it we shall have a better understanding of each other. Language, diplomatic or otherwise, can be a tricky thing. Starting with a common language however, it seems to me we ought to be able to arrive somewhere by the end of this program.

WRONG: You have asked for frankness, Mr. Fisher, and I am going to pick you up right there. You have forgotten that I represent a country that is bilingual. Please remember 50% of our population is of French origin. In the Province of Quebec alone there are several hundred thousand Canadians who can speak only French. Both English and French are spoken in the Parliament of Canada; official documents are printed in both languages; and on our national system programs are broadcast in both French and English.

ATHERTON: And when I am in Canada, I find myself speaking both your languages.

WRONG: I bring this up, Mr. Fisher, because it is a point which is often overlooked when our relations come up for discussion. It's overlooked just as naturally as you did just now when you said we had a common language. It's true. We do. But our other language, French, is important to all of us who are Canadians, and particularly to the Canadians who speak it.

FISHER: Well, I see that there are unsuspected hurdles on that undefended boundary line between us. I would like, before we get really underway, to mark out with you the areas we would like to try to cover in the time we have. For in-