

attempt was made to dispose of some of these outstanding issues in the winter by negotiating a package of reciprocal and balanced concessions with the United States. The Canadian Government's position was put confidentially to the United States in this context at the time. The attempt at negotiation was not successful. At the moment, the position is that negotiations on outstanding trade issues are to be resumed at a time still to be fixed. Pending resumption, each side is reviewing its negotiating position.

Meanwhile the Government has introduced legislation to control take-overs of Canadian firms by foreign capital.... Strictly speaking, this is a Canadian, not a bilateral issue. Everybody knows, of course, that the capital involved is largely capital from the United States, and that the issue of American ownership of Canadian business and industry is a matter of intense debate in Canada.

These, then, have been the most important economic questions for relations between Canada and the United States in recent months. Other issues have leaped into prominence as well -- notably energy questions and environmental issues. Last autumn, the United States Administration proceeded to conduct an underground nuclear test on Amchitka Island. This spring, it has authorized the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, thereby strengthening fears that the two countries will face a serious danger from oil-spills if ever Alaskan oil begins to move through the narrow waters of the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca. An ominous foreshadowing of these dangers was provided only two weeks ago, when there was a spill -- fortunately small -- from a tanker unloading at the Cherry Point Refinery just south of the Canada-United States border.

Both the decision to conduct the Amchitka test and the decision to authorize the Trans-Alaska Pipeline produced widespread protest in Canada. The House of Commons adopted resolutions expressing Canadian concern, by one vote short of unanimity in the case of the resolution on the Amchitka test and unanimously in the case of the resolution on West Coast pollution dangers. As a result of the oil-spill at Cherry Point, a further resolution was also adopted unanimously. This calls for a reference of the problem to the International Joint Commission. All these resolutions were promptly transmitted to the United States Government. We understand that they have received attention at the highest level. This form of solemn parliamentary protest is unprecedented in Canada-United States relations.

Recently, the revival of the war in Vietnam has returned that subject to a high place on the list of issues complicating relations between Canada and the United States.

On the other side of the ledger, we have had a highly successful visit of President Nixon to Canada. In what he said while he was in Ottawa, the President showed a perceptive sensitivity to some of the issues that concern Canadians most. His clear acknowledgement of the separate identities of our two countries is one example of this; what he said about foreign ownership was another. The visit was capped by the signature of an important new agreement on a joint approach to cleaning up the Great Lakes. And, from the discussion of international questions that took place, it was clear also that the two Governments hold convergent views about the international order that is now emerging.