

new dimension to this interparliamentary group. As I have said, these are in camera meetings and for many years only delegates attended them. There may have been a few exceptions, and if so Senator O'Leary will correct me. At a meeting in Washington two years ago, at which I was leader of the Canadian delegation, we were discussing technical problems with respect to energy. As might be expected, we did not have all the answers. Consequently, we agreed to invite an expert from the American government to sit with us in an advisory capacity. I believe that was the first time such action was taken. In any event, I feel it would be useful in circumstances where we are dealing with technical problems to have on hand an expert who could give us some guidance. Perhaps some of my colleagues will disagree with me on that point.

In my view another precedent was set when a special meeting of the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group was held November 11, 1971. This meeting was held at the request of the Canadian delegation to discuss the 10 per cent surcharge on imports that had been imposed by the Government of the United States. The practice has been to hold meetings each year alternately in Canada and in the United States, but as a result of the November 11 meeting it was agreed that if at any time one group wished urgently to discuss any problem of mutual importance, it should approach the other group regarding the possibility of holding a special meeting. This agreement forms part of the report that I will ask to have placed in *Hansard*.

• (2140)

There is one thing that took place at the last conference here that I should like to outline. As you know, there were discussions in two different committees in Ottawa, and on the Saturday there were discussions in Montebello. We all agreed, I believe, that one of the most important issues was that of trade between Canada and the United States, but there were, of course, other important matters discussed such as those concerning defence and external policies. Defence was one problem that everyone felt should be discussed in depth.

It was suggested, for the first time, that we could have a plenary session of both committees with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. This took place in the Railway Committee Room. I attended most of the meeting, which I think went on for a little more than an hour. In my view, the importance of this is that the American delegates, representatives of both houses, had more information from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce on Canadian problems and the Canadian perspective than they ever had before. This is a precedent that I hope can be repeated when there is a trip to Washington another year.

In the light of this it can be said that this Interparliamentary Group is not only more alive than ever, but that its basic concept or charter has been enlarged to permit more meetings than the earlier conference originally planned. These changes will, I think, permit a much better understanding than before. It can be said, therefore, that this latest meeting of the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group was—this is my view, at least—one of the most successful. However, I must confess that I have

attended only three or four. This interparliamentary group is now, I think, unique among our parliamentary associations.

When our American friends left Ottawa at the end of the meeting we were all conscious of the fact that, even if we had not settled one specific problem—and there are important problems between Americans and Canadians today, and there will be more tomorrow and after tomorrow—at least we had had the great satisfaction of being a group representing all parties in both countries, who had found a very effective mechanism for a better understanding and a lasting friendship between our two countries.

These are the only observations I wish to make at this time. I know that my colleagues who follow me in this debate will have much more to say, because they took part in the discussions. Even though the discussions were held in camera, it is possible, I think, for my colleagues to at least express their views on the topics discussed.

Having said that, may I ask that the Report of the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group, which is signed by Speaker Lamoureux and myself, be printed as an appendix to the *Debates of the Senate* of this day.

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

[For text of Appendix see pp. 47-51]

**Hon. Alan Macnaughton:** Honourable senators, you will be glad to hear that my remarks this evening will be brief, instead of the usual torrent of words, perhaps leading nowhere.

I listened with great interest to the remarks of His Honour the Speaker, who led our delegation in a very distinguished way. I have for many years been a member of this interparliamentary group. I must say there has been a certain amount of continuity of membership, which I think is important on any committee. Furthermore, it helps one make many personal friendships which in time of need prove valuable indeed. I have in the past spoken several times on this subject, and I will not delay you for long this evening. However, I do wish to illustrate the importance of this group.

On the delegation there were two new faces, namely, the honourable Senator John J. Connolly and the honourable Senator Douglas Everett, who brought their experience and knowledge, and proved most welcome additions, and in their own ways made very special contributions. The honourable Senator Salter Hayden, of course, will speak in this debate. He was one of our leaders on trade matters. The honourable Senator Louis Beaubien brought his practical experience to apply to trade matters. As for the honourable Senator Grattan O'Leary, who is in effect one of the patron saints of this organization, he brought light and levity, along with a great deal of wisdom, when we celebrated his birthday twice in one day.

• (2150)

Honourable senators, there are two organizations to which I should like to call your attention. The first is the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Branch, which works for both Houses of Parliament. It was set up for that purpose and I think it has proved its worth during the years. We owe a debt of gratitude for the organization of this confer-