

The WITNESS: I am afraid I cannot answer either question. I was not aware that Russia had refused to participate in any conference on these matters before Bretton Woods. Russia did participate and participated quite actively at Bretton Woods.

Q. I am aware of that.—A. On the second question I do not know what the present position is as regards Russia.

By Mr. Coldwell:

Q. Has it not been your experience that if Russia entered a conference and committed herself to certain conclusions that she has made the boast she has always carried those conclusions into effect? Is it not a fact that she makes that boast?—A. I think that is right, but no government was committed to anything as a result of Bretton Woods. It would be perfectly open to Russia as it would be perfectly open to the Canadian government—

Q. I understand that, but the argument she has usually used when discussing other conferences and participating in other conferences is that once governments or representatives of governments have come to certain conclusions it is more or less obligatory upon the other participants to carry out those conclusions, and she says she is always willing to do so. That is one of the arguments that was made at the foreign ministers' conference. Of course, Stalin is at the highest level but that was one of the arguments used in September at the foreign ministers' conference against any changes and at San Francisco much the same argument in some respects was used. I wondered what the present position of Russia was.

The CHAIRMAN: It is 1.00 o'clock. From conversation with members of the committee I would anticipate that the few questions that are left in regard to the fund could perhaps be completed within half or three quarters of an hour after we convene at 4.00 o'clock this afternoon. If it is your wish Mr. Rasminsky will then make his presentation in regard to the bank.

Mr. COLDWELL: I should like to say that we had a number of questions we were going to ask but, as a matter of fact, most of them have been asked already and the answers have been given. I do not propose just for the sake of asking questions to ask those questions over again, so there will be no repetition.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Coldwell moves that we adjourn until 4.00 o'clock. The committee adjourned at 1.00 p.m. to meet again at 4.00 o'clock p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The committee resumed at 4 o'clock p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, gentlemen; shall we resume?

By Mr. Macdonnell:

Q. I wanted to ask Mr. Rasminsky a question which rises out of a question which I asked last night. I asked then if Mr. Rasminsky would give us an idea as to what part he felt that the amount of money available to ourselves, for example, from the fund; if we needed it, would play in overcoming a situation of deflation in our own country, and he answered it partly with reference to our trade history with the United States and with Britain, and I wanted just to ask this arising out of that question; particularly in view of the fact that there will be a transitional period which perhaps might affect our capacity to acquire sterling balances, if we continue to have large balances against us in the United States will we have a difficult transfer problem with the United States?