

between them is peculiarly intimate and friendly. Is the Government of the United States at all likely, in return for bases which they acquired seven years ago in the hour of great common peril, to give special trade concessions to Newfoundland which she will not give to Canada on at least equally favourable terms? But the most important aspect of all that the Government of the United States would take into account, is the fact that if they did give Newfoundland special concessions over and above those given to other countries, the United States would thereby be deliberately turning her back on a trade policy which she strained every effort to establish, which she has striven very hard to get other countries to accept and which she has advertised widely throughout the world as her policy. I refer, of course, to America's well-known policy of multilateral trade and tariff agreements. A policy of giving no trade concessions to one country without offering them to all other countries on exactly the same terms.

It was, we must not forget, the Government of the United States that called the trade conference at Geneva last spring. It was that government that invited the other nations to take part. It was that government that took the lead in the conference which met for many months, and at which Newfoundland was represented. We all know the story of the ups and downs of that conference, of the difficulties, of the narrow escapes it had from disaster, of the herculean tasks it had to perform. We know that on the 18th of this present month, tomorrow, the world is to learn how successful or otherwise the United States government has been in establishing its policy of multilateral trade agreements throughout the world. For on tomorrow 105 trade and tariff treaties are to be published in all the countries concerned. To give Newfoundland special trade concessions in such circumstances as these would mean that the United States would have to retrace its steps over the trail it has blazed in its efforts to stabilise its own and the world's trade.

Finally, there is yet another aspect to which, whether they liked it or not, the Government of the United States would have to give most careful consideration, and that is the powerful pressure which America's own vast fishing industry would exert against allowing our fish or any one country's fish into America at such low rates of

customs duties as to depress the price of American fish and the wages of American fishermen. That pressure, coming from the masters of the American fishing industry, and from the powerful trade unions of American fishermen backed by the whole trade union movement of the United States would carry a political significance, a political threat which no American government has ever yet been able to ignore. We all remember how just a few years ago a great fish development scheme on the southwest coast of Newfoundland was wrecked before it could even get going, by the pressure of those same American fishing interests who fought fiercely against any move to admit Newfoundland fish at special tariff rates even when it was to be brought into the United States by an American company operating in Newfoundland.

All these are hard facts Mr. Chairman, and they are facts upon which we dare not turn our backs. We must not give our people false hopes. I wish it were possible, sir, to get special preferential treatment for our fish in the United States markets, but I am not prepared to delude myself or the people of this country in this matter. It would be a shameful thing to lead the people on with false hopes. And though I regret to say it, I must, for the reasons I have given, state very frankly that I see no hope whatever of our getting trade concession from the United States of America that our much larger competitors will not get on exactly the same terms.

Now, there is another aspect of this debate upon which I wish to offer a word or two of comment. We have seen and heard a very thinly disguised attempt to impute a lack of patriotic feeling to those members who have declined to accept this so-called Economic Report and the rosy picture it paints of our present and future. An effort is being made to blow this report up into an infallible test of our patriotism and love of country. If you are a patriot you will agree with this report, if you are not a patriot, you will question it. Your attitude towards it is a sure and certain test of your patriotism, that is the attempt that is being made, sir, and nobody seems to have observed the complete absurdity of it. Have we sunk so low, Mr. Chairman, are we so lost to all sense of reality? Have we wandered so far from a sense of duty? When the report seems to us literally to glow with easy optimism for the fu-