

to make some progress each time. Public opinion expected results, and could not be disappointed. He himself was very ready to get away from the game of statistics and to be flexible. It was important that all should avoid a doctrinaire approach.

6. H. Schumann said he had the impression that the opposition in the House of Commons to British membership of the Communities was harder but at the same time weaker than in the past. Mr. Rippon said this could be so. The problems which worried people today might seem derisory in the years to come. It was nevertheless vital to give the impression that we were working together to succeed, and that it would not all take too long. H. Schumann said that his own approach to the problem was somewhat uncomfortable. "We feel more strongly than ever for all conceivable political reasons - I speak from the heart - that enlargement should take place as soon as possible." But there was a long way to go. The stumbling blocks were high and the bones of contention were big. The French willed the end, but the means of achieving it were far from easy. There were certain basic rules based on the documents of the case which could not be ignored. At the same time he much appreciated Mr. Rippon's flexible approach and felt sure this was the right way to proceed. Mr. Rippon said that the Community must be flexible too. H. Schumann agreed. Mr. Rippon should nevertheless know that in preparing the negotiations the Six had to choose between a bargaining position and a realistic position. They had chosen the realistic position but this left them with little room for manoeuvre.

7. Mr. Rippon said that he accepted the rules and procedures of the Six and would respect them. The proposals we had put to the Commission were realistic but they were not hard or fast, and were open to discussion. He hoped that the major problems could be dealt with in

the same spirit as the minor ones on which agreement had been reached on 27 October. We would think again about our proposals when we saw the Community's comments on them. As for the question of a transitional period or periods, there was no rule or principle involved so far as we knew. It might be the most practical solution to the problem to have one, or two, or three. We would see. The vital point was that we should help each other to find solutions, avoid battles and see to it that no-one was victor or vanquished. H. Schumann agreed. There was, Mr. Rippon continued, some conflict between the reference in M. Haruel's paper of 30 June to transitional measures and the reference in the piece of paper given him at Luxembourg to a single transitional period. H. Schumann said that we would see what the position of the Community was. A lot depended on the length of the transitional period. Mr. Rippon said the essential thing was to find a commonsense solution to the problem. But he particularly urged H. Schumann not to present one particular solution as a sort of ultimatum.

8. H. Schumann said he did not like the word ultimatum. Having different transitional periods might produce a different sort of Community. General de Gaulle had always said that British entry would make for a different Community and that this would be no bad thing. But the present French Government thought otherwise, and strongly believed, with the other members of the Community, that we should adhere to the existing rules. Mr. Rippon said that this was not his point. He had mentioned the dispute over a transitional period or periods to show the sort of demand and counter-demand that we should seek to avoid. It would have been easier if the French had put their views on the question differently. As it was any change of ground on either side could be represented as a victory or a defeat. What was required was the best solution to the problem reached after amicable discussion of the possibilities.

possibilities. He hoped that this would be the approach which would be followed under H. Schumann's chairmanship. H.H.G. realise the need not to put forward proposals that infringed the existing rules. H. Schumann said he wanted to be optimistic. He would obviously like to see the essentials of the negotiations settled during his chairmanship.

9. H. Schumann asked what was the main stumbling block in the eyes of British public opinion. Mr. Rippon replied that it was their pockets. H. Schumann said that British entry represented a great chance for British industry. As he understood it the Confederation of British Industry had not changed its view that entry would bring great advantages to the British economy. Mr. Rippon agreed. A lot of the anxieties now current in Britain were similar to those expressed in France in 1957 and 1958. He hoped they would prove equally illusory. Our concern now as the French was then was the impact. There had to be step by step changes to avoid upset or dislocation. The French did not always seem to realise what great opportunities there would be for French agricultural products in the British market.

10. Mr. Rippon said that some of the problems regarding Britain's present overseas suppliers could be solved if the enlarged Community saw its relations with these countries as an aspect of its general relations with the outside world. H. Schumann said he had lectured at Oxford on the Commonwealth aspect of the problem some years ago and then foresaw that this would become less important with time. The Japanese were now eating more butter and this should give huge new outlets. It was bad for any country to rely on others at the other end of the world for their food. Mr. Rippon said that he had told the New Zealanders that they would have to think about their own long term future. But they were without anything like the resources of Australia and would be in difficult circumstances for a long time to come if they were deprived of the British market for their dairy

/products.

