

In short, the lesson of the EFTA experience is that advocates of liberal trading policies can now prove their case in practice. Advocates of protection by tariffs, quotas and levies have to face the fact that experience has proven their fears to be illusory, and even damaging in the long run to their own best interests.

Chairman Boggs. Mr. Younger, why doesn't General deGaulle want the United Kingdom in the Community?

Mr. YOUNGER. Mr. Chairman, you are in danger of receiving a long speech from me on a question as wide as that.

I feel myself that if you are talking of President deGaulle himself, his whole philosophical concept of what Europe ought to be, and what France's place in that Europe ought to be makes it very hard for him to accept the enlargement of the European Community, particularly by Britain and other North European, non-Latin countries. I think this is partly a cultural matter, quite apart from political interests. It is partly a question of maintaining Latin culture, the predominance of the French language, and so on. I think this goes back very deeply into his political attitude throughout the whole of his life, and that of the generation of Frenchmen of a particular political tradition to which he belongs.

Therefore I am inclined to discount many of the contemporary economic arguments which he uses against our membership. When he says, with some plausibility, that we ought to put our house economically in order, and that we ought to have a strong currency before we can be acceptable, I don't dispute that. But I feel fairly sure that if we did these things and became strong, he would like our entry even less.

Therefore, I have always taken a very pessimistic view of his personal attitude to British entry.

But I think that influence is bound in the nature of things to be more or less temporary.

Chairman Boggs. In the light of that attitude, when do you think you will get in?

Mr. YOUNGER. Well, I must say that it is likely to be a year or two. I have been in the habit of saying 1970. But it could take a little longer.

Chairman Boggs. If and when the United Kingdom comes in, will the other EFTA countries apply for admission?

Mr. YOUNGER. Certainly some of them will, and nearly all of them will want some kind of economic association, if they don't actually want to join. I don't think there is any doubt—

Chairman Boggs. Which ones in your opinion will apply?

Mr. YOUNGER. Denmark and Norway. I am not quite so sure about what the Swedish attitude will be. It used to be said that Sweden couldn't possibly aim for more than association, but even that is not quite so certain as time goes by. It depends largely on the strategic issue.

And then, of course, apart from EFTA there are other countries, like Ireland, which is not in EFTA, but which would also wish to join.

So that the British entry would certainly bring with it an enlargement of three or four others, say, at least.