

differences, at least in degree, as to your hope of success. And I think this is the difference in the approach recommended by Mr. Rockefeller.

And, Mr. Rockefeller, I would like you to speak to that, why you are hopeful that we might achieve what we have not been able to achieve so far.

MR. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. Bolling, perhaps if I had had the years of disappointing negotiations that Mr. Ball has had that I would be less optimistic than I am. I have not had those years of negotiation. And I am basically an optimist by nature. So that I still am convinced that the right solution ought to be a possible solution. I am strongly convinced that, as I said in my testimony, it is important to continue and preserve a multilateral nondiscriminatory approach. And I am very much afraid that if we join the Europeans in a different approach, which, in effect, would abandon the most important principles of GATT, that we would lose more than we would gain. And therefore, with Mr. Reuss, I am not yet prepared to do it. I think that we have just won a resounding and encouraging victory in the results of the Kennedy Round negotiations. That would lead me to feel that there is still hope that we can win another round in relation to the nontariff barriers.

Representative BOLLING. Mr. Ball, do you care to comment?

MR. BALL. I regard myself as an optimist, also, Mr. Bolling. In fact, some of my friends have accused me of being rather pathologically an optimist.

But I do have doubts as to the ability as to any—and I don't confine this to the United States—the ability of any of the major economically advanced countries to adopt and administer a system of generalized preferences for less-developed countries. I don't think our problem is with Europe in the first instance. I think our problem is at home. I think it is a question of our own inability to do this. Even if this became a matter of public debate, I am not sure where the public would come out. I think there would be serious doubt in the public mind as to whether we should give a preference in our markets for what they regard as the cheap-labor countries in industrial production. And I am just not sure, even if we were to carry this to the country in a big public debate, who would win. Because I think on the other side you would find all, or 90 percent, of the companies, particularly in labor-intensive production, shouting from the housetops about the fact that this was going to be ruinous to American business. And I think you would find a substantial part of the American labor movement, particularly in labor-intensive industries, supporting the same view. And I think it would be very difficult.

I would hope Mr. Rockefeller is right, but I am doubtful.

Representative BOLLING. Mr. Rockefeller?

MR. ROCKEFELLER. It seems to me the real issue is how serious for our country this widening gap between the poor and the rich nation is. In my judgment, it is very serious. I think this is one of the two or three most important problems that we face in the world which is of comparable importance to our domestic problem in the urban area. If this is so, then it is perfectly apparent, it seems to me, that we in the United States have to play a leading role in trying to reverse that trend.

One way that it can be done is through economic assistance. And as