

At the same time, while not recommending any form of control measures which would prevent Canadians spending money outside the country, I think we should encourage Canadians to do much more travelling within their own country. That encompasses a great deal, including measures to reduce the cost of transportation facilities—it is frequently cheaper to travel outside the country than within it, which seems unreasonable, and including the kind of accommodation facilities that are available to ordinary Canadians as they move across the country. I suggest that this is a very important aspect, not only for our balance of payments but also in promoting greater national understanding, a matter with which I will deal in a moment.

To conclude my comments on the economy, I would like to refer again to the optimism with which I believe Canadians should be viewing the future. At the same time, I think we must be concerned about the problems which have given rise to such a serious situation in the last few years, to our increasingly high rate of unemployment and, in particular, we must take a much closer look at our secondary manufacturing industry—whom should we be protecting, and whom should we not be protecting; whose jobs should be protected, and whose should not?

I am somewhat concerned about the negotiations that are apparently under way in Geneva relating to GATT, as a result of which we may find ourselves accepting increasingly freer trade practices. My real concern is that as we “give” in some areas, in terms of lessening our import restrictions or customs duties, we should obtain freer access to those markets where non-tariff barriers are creating a problem. I refer, for instance, to restrictions on government spending policies of other countries, whether they will buy from outside as well as inside the country, and other types of measures that are of great concern to the Canadian manufacturing industry which is attempting to enter these export markets.

Other areas in which we have seen encouraging signs in the last few years include that of wage settlements. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) referred yesterday to wage settlements. According to my notes, they amounted to 8.8 per cent for the year ending the first quarter of 1977, which is a vast improvement over prior years—and this in an area where we continue to be told that we are quite uncompetitive with our neighbours to the south. Control over rates of inflation will continue to be important. We will have to convert many of our savers into buyers. I am sure Canadians will move into that pattern, but they will do it with care and caution. As a government, we must show the leadership that will help them.

I conclude these comments on the economy by referring to a recent address by Mr. Rowland Frazee, president of the Royal Bank of Canada and president of the Canadian Bankers' Association, in which he said that we, as Canadians, should not lose our perspective, that we have many natural technological and human resources which are a real bounty to us, and that our institutions are strong. He suggested that we should be concerned, but not alarmed, and that hard work and a sense

of purpose are qualities which Canadians must foster anew in themselves.

There will be trade-offs, as the Prime Minister has mentioned, in such areas as what percentage we are going to own of our Canadian industry versus jobs that might otherwise be provided, as well as various other areas. But we must not put the blame on others for our situation; we must look to ourselves and realize that an increased standard of living is simply not a God-given right for every Canadian.

I should now like to address my remarks to the need for a greater degree of national understanding in this country. Here I purposely refrain from using the term “national unity” because, frankly, I do not really understand just what that term means. I have a certain concept of national unity which I am not sure is shared by other colleagues in the House from other areas of Canada. I feel, however, that national understanding—understanding among the peoples of various regions of the country—is a very important factor. A large gap exists there. In fact, I suggest that the election of the Parti Québécois government last November 15 is largely the result, on the one hand, of 110 years of misunderstanding and, what is worse in my view, of 110 years of completely inadequate measures by governments at all levels and by citizens generally to try to overcome this problem.

We have as yet no separatist government in the west or in the east, but it is conceivable that this phase could develop. The situation in Quebec was, perhaps, brought about by factors that we may not find in other regions of the country. Nevertheless, we are being told over and over again that the alienation of people in various regions of Canada is very real in terms of their relationship with central Canada, and the over-all problem is by no means restricted to Quebec.

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Unless we tackle the problem for what it is, and not for what we might like it to be, in my view ultimately we shall be faced with a potential break-up of this country into various segments, each of which will ultimately seek its own destiny. We shall, indeed, have let down our sons, daughters and grandchildren if we allow this mentality to develop. That is to say nothing of letting down past generations, starting with the Fathers of Confederation, who looked upon this country as one in which they had a very strong belief.

Even if over generations we may have been guilty, to a degree, of a sin of omission in not doing our utmost to promote a greater degree of understanding across the nation during our maturing stage, the point to bear in mind is that the real issue we are facing is not a Quebec issue but a Canadian issue. As members of parliament, I feel we must look at the problem and tackle it with this attitude in mind. It is as serious a Canadian problem, that adults in one section of Ontario recently poured scorn upon the concept of an all-French teaching institution in a neighbourhood where French-speaking Canadians form a significant nucleus of the population, as it is a serious problem that the government of Quebec has told residents of the province that instruction in the English lan-