

that "...where the work of a consular office is predominantly commercial, the senior officer should be selected from the Commercial Intelligence Service with a Consul or Vice-Consul from External Affairs, whereas the reverse would apply if commercial problems were of a secondary interest." The timetable proposed for implementing the arrangements spanned two years and involved opening two Consulates over 1945 and 1946, unless Trade and Commerce could make an equal number of staff available for the new offices, in which case all six would be manned by 1946.

The proposal was subjected to some criticism. For example, J.E. Read, Legal Adviser to the Department, remarked that there was, in his estimation, no good reason for Canada to accept the "...old and now defunct comic strip 'Keeping up with the Joneses' as the model upon which External Affairs should be based... It seems to me to be a silly argument to say that because the British Foreign Office, after nearly two centuries of experience, have managed to boost their consular estimates up to a given level, the Canadian Department of External Affairs should start where the Foreign Office left off."³⁹

The major concern, however, was associated with the relationship which the establishment of a consular system would imply between External Affairs and Trade and Commerce. Read believed that Trade and Commerce should furnish most of the personnel required for staffing the American consulates since that department possessed a large list of senior and experienced officials suitable for this work.⁴⁰ It was "...idle to talk about manufacturing consuls general out of persons in other departments of the government other than Trade and Commerce."⁴¹ W.D. Matthews, commenting on the Trade aspects of consulates, addressed himself to the objections of the Consul General in New York to the independence of the