

Supply—External Affairs

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Would my hon. friend read what I said at Banff? I did not say that at Banff.

Mr. Nesbitt: I do not have the newspaper clipping in front of me, but certainly that impression was created. I said the reports in the press created the impression that Canada might be going to join that organization, and the minister also gave that impression to the committee on external affairs during the meetings of that body.

Whether or not we should join the organization is a matter of debate in itself. I for one would have very grave doubts about the wisdom of joining it, and I think most of the reasons are fairly obvious. As I say, this matter is going to be dealt with fully by one of my colleagues, but may I point out one of the arguments advanced in favour of joining the organization is that geographically we are in the same unit. That may have been true in 1492 but the jet age has made things rather different, so that geographically our interests today are much closer to western Europe, Japan and the Soviet union than they are to Latin America, and certainly our present associations with Latin American countries are very satisfactory.

During the regime of the former government diplomatic missions were set up in all the Latin American countries. Last year we had a trade with Latin America amounting to \$650 million, but we are not caught in the rather awkward position of being a member of the organization of American states. If we were a member, I ask what would be our relations with Cuba, and what about our trade with the People's Republic of China? Then there is the more obvious argument, that if we were a member of the organization we would be expected to pull United States chestnuts out of the Latin American fire, and vice-versa, and so far as I can see all we would get would be burned fingers. As someone said about Ireland and the commonwealth, it is a question of how to be a member without joining.

Then there is the question of the commonwealth. Everyone is in favour of the commonwealth, and recently the government made some observations on it, but it seems to be all talk and not too much action. The setting up of a commonwealth secretariat, probably in London, seems to be making progress. I think it is a good idea as a sort of post office for exchanging ideas. At present we have certain scholarship and student exchanges among commonwealth countries, and I suggest we should give consideration to

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

an exchange of teachers and university professors between Canada and other parts of the commonwealth. In that way we might learn a little more about the real thinking in other parts of the commonwealth.

Mr. Baldwin: Exchange ministers.

Mr. Nesbitt: That might be a good idea too.

Mr. Douglas: We could get two for one.

Mr. Nesbitt: Then there is another suggestion which has been made at different times. It might have had application in the case of Cyprus, but it might be reasonably useful in certain parts of Africa in the future. I refer to the possibility of building up a commonwealth peace force to deal with problems of peace keeping in countries associated with the commonwealth. We can all think of examples of situations which might arise in Africa in the near future.

These are matters of a positive kind. But disturbing things have been happening in the commonwealth of late. First, there is the declaration of Ghana and Tanzania made in the course of the recent conference in Cairo. There have been several reports in the press but the one to which I call attention particularly appeared in the *Globe and Mail* of October 14:

Indonesia and its supporters urged the Chinese view of the world struggle, that the first problem is the destruction of capitalism by force.

President Sukarno was supported by representatives of Tanzania, Ghana—

Then the report goes on to mention a number of other countries. This, I fear, is a dangerous point of view to be taken by some members of the commonwealth. I hope the minister and his colleagues will do everything possible to persuade Ghana and Tanzania that this is hardly the type of approach to be taken by members of a commonwealth supposed to have the same principles and the same ideals.

We can perhaps understand why Tanzania, in particular, should have taken this attitude. It is my understanding that some time ago the government of that country through its Prime Minister Mr. Nyerere made a request to the Canadian government that military instructors should be provided for its armed forces. It is again my understanding that Canada refused to supply a military contingent to train the army of our newest commonwealth brother. It seems to me there is a considerable lack of co-ordination between the Secretary of State for External Affairs and his colleague the Minister of National Defence. After all, defence is really—