

Commonwealth Conference

have not. We all know that. We have been aware of this for a good many years. However, it was pointed out that this division now sees the "haves" almost entirely synonymous in their view with the whites, and the "have nots" clearly synonymous with the other races of the world.

This lends sharpness to racial as well as economic tensions. The developing countries were at pains to emphasize that while they appreciate the technical and financial help, what they appreciate even more, and I think we can sympathize with them in this, is improved terms on trade for their primary products exports and increased access to the major markets by the developing countries for such manufactures as they are able to produce and will presumably increasingly produce in the future.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are in the communiqué a number of proposals for increasing co-operation in the technical and economic fields inside the commonwealth. There is the proposal, for instance, for working out a scheme of commonwealth development projects. We have already some of these under the Colombo plan. There is, I believe, one project in Pakistan now which has been organized and worked out by three commonwealth governments. It was thought perhaps we could extend that. A proposal was made by the British government to that effect.

There was also a proposal for helping new countries by giving administration training to those who will be responsible for administering their governments at a time when there are very few natives who have that experience. At the same time we realized that a good deal of this is being done now by separate commonwealth governments. To set up some new, large commonwealth administration in London might be confusing rather than helpful in this regard.

Then there was a proposal for establishing a commonwealth foundation to administer a fund for an increasing flow of information and contacts in professional fields. There was a proposal to increase the resources available to the commonwealth parliamentary association and give it an opportunity to do even better work than it has done in the past. There was a proposal put forward by Canada to establish consultation and to help the developing countries in the field of satellite communications. That was received with great interest and is going to be examined.

There was one other proposal, which appears at the end of the communiqué, which in some respects is the most interesting of

all the concrete proposals made. It became quite clear from the beginning of the conference that there was a strong desire on the part of the newer countries of the commonwealth, the new African countries, to have some kind of commonwealth machinery, some kind of commonwealth institution, a commonwealth secretariat, established for the service of the commonwealth as a whole.

Mr. Nowlan: Shades of Mackenzie King.

Mr. Pearson: My hon. friend from Digby-Annapolis-Kings says "Shades of Mackenzie King". I understand exactly what he means, and when this proposal was made I thought it was time for me to commune with those shades.

Mr. Diefenbaker: How did you get along with them?

Mr. Pearson: I got very good advice. When I say this proposal was in a sense surprising, we remember it is not long since proposals for a secretariat were regarded with fairly general suspicion as a reflection of a tendency toward centralization, which in those early days was interpreted as meaning rule from Downing street. It is significant, then, to realize that the pressure toward this kind of consultative centralization, if you want to call it that, comes from the newer countries which in many ways are or should be most suspicious of the older members in this regard, but they have no fears of any such implications from a proposal of this kind. They are very much aware of its practical value to them in providing a broad range of information which it is difficult for them to obtain with the inadequate diplomatic and government services they now have or perhaps can afford; and so we supported this proposal.

I think the situation has changed a great deal since the early days, and it is something we should try to work out on a genuine commonwealth basis. Yet at the same time this should be done without interfering with the existing channels of communications, without confusing what is already in many respects a very satisfactory method of co-ordination and exchange of information. We must be sure the basis of this new secretariat is sound, and that we are adding an institution of value and not simply an additional agency available for the free play of Parkinson's law; but we will be glad to take part in the study of a possible basis for such an organization, which will be taking place very shortly.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years fears have been expressed—and they were certainly ex-