

*Paris Trade Conference*

complaint on that score because he has been dealing with a highly important matter; and it was quite appropriate, I suppose, that on the day which is normally and traditionally called leader's day we should have heard from the minister at some length.

Perhaps I may be permitted to express my mild surprise that in view of the nature of the conference and its agenda we did not hear from the Minister of Trade and Commerce, but that is a matter of governmental division of business with which, of course, I am not concerned.

The minister has talked about the meeting in Paris, the conference of thirteen, and the difficulties already created by the fact that it was not a conference of twenty. I can understand the difficulties and I can also understand the difficulty in meeting those difficulties, but this does serve to underline the importance of consultation among all members of a group that are concerned with the discussions affecting any members of that group. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green) has been telling us recently that all the problems of consultation in NATO have been solved, but this is a difficult problem to solve indeed, and the statement made by the Minister of Finance illustrates how difficult it is.

The conference already seems to have had some interesting results. As the minister has pointed out, a committee of four, meeting, he said, in their personal and expert capacity—that is not going to be easy in these circumstances—has been set up to report on how a new organization for international economic co-operation which will have its political importance, can be established—and in saying that I am paraphrasing, I hope correctly, what the minister said—which will include not only the members of the organization for European economic co-operation but Canada and the United States. This may turn out to be an extremely important report indeed and in so far as it will lead to that result—the conversion of the organization for European economic co-operation into an organization for Atlantic economic co-operation—it will certainly receive the support of every hon. member of our party. With respect to the importance of this matter, we on this side of the house have been talking about its importance for many years.

The minister says that the names of the members of this very important committee will be announced when it is possible to do so, but the *New York Times* seems to have done that already. I quote from a report by its Paris correspondent, found in the issue of Friday, January 15, as follows:

It was decided today that four experts would draw up a report on a new organization, probably a transformation of the OEEC, for a meeting of the 20 nations April 19.

The article goes on:

The four experts will represent, respectively, North America—

According to this report, and I hope it is not accurate, one of these experts will represent North America, which includes Canada; another will represent the European free trade association or outer seven, another the six-nation European economic community or common market, and the fourth will represent other European nations. The report goes on to say:

The North American representative will be from the United States, the outer seven member will be a Briton, and the common market delegate a Frenchman. A Greek will represent the others.

This report gives the names of the four members of the committee.

It is expected that the American will be W. Randolph Burgess, United States ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Others mentioned are Sir Paul Gore Booth, undersecretary for economic affairs in the British foreign office, Bernard Clappier, director of external finances at the French ministry of finance, and Xenophon Zolotas, governor of the Bank of Greece.

Apparently some progress has already been made with the appointment of this very important committee. I will have something more to say about this a little later. I must express regret that Canada, which has taken a very active and leading part in the past toward the conversion of OEEC into a possible OAEAC, was not found worthy of membership in this group.

The minister has also pointed out that some progress has been made in broadening the basis of international economic assistance to include, I hope, the countries of Europe which have made such a splendid recovery in the last few years and which are now in a position to make their contribution to international economic assistance. I hope that result will also be achieved.

I concur with the minister in his analysis of the importance of Europe to this and other international economic matters, and the importance of these developments not only from the economic but from the political point of view. The minister paid a warm tribute to the leadership given by the United States of America in this and related matters, and I think we can all agree with him in that tribute. But perhaps it is also well to point out, as I think he perhaps did, that great leadership in this matter has also been given by European countries; and I hope that leadership, notably by the United Kingdom, our own mother country, combined with