

Supply—Finance

estimates of the Minister of Trade and Commerce and on a supply motion amendment on April 24 and 25, the nature of such a constructive approach was put forward from this side of the chamber. That is the kind of action which should have been taken. That is the kind of attitude which should have been adopted. Perhaps at this late hour I should not elaborate, other than to say that in my view the two ministers ought to be concerning themselves with getting rid of some of the burdens they are placing on the backs of production in this country. They should be seeking to put both our primary producers and our secondary industries into a competitive position instead of blindly piling burden after burden on their backs as they are now doing.

Somewhere in his remarks at Accra the Minister of Trade and Commerce said that the commonwealth was held together by tradition, trust and trade. Though he did not say it in so many words, the theme of his argument at that point was: "And the greatest of these is trade". The commonwealth I think, is held together by many ties other than trade. I am not one to minimize the importance of trade within the commonwealth. I have no desire to do that and indeed, I tend rather to maximize its importance. However as I say, the commonwealth, which has represented such a great force in the world over the years, is held together by other things besides trade. That hideous parody of a biblical quotation was rather ill advised. If the minister wishes I can elaborate.

Mr. Hees: I will take it as read.

Mr. McIlraith: The minister might well do so. If he wishes to develop it he will see that the British press characterized that part of his speech as the Canadian Tory imperialism.

In any event, in complaining about the comment made by the press in this country the Minister of Finance said—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Not only the press in this country.

Mr. McIlraith: This and other countries. The minister was very sweeping in his denunciation of press comment. I do not like using his adjectives because it seems to me they are unnecessarily offensive. There is no doubt, however, what he meant. He denounced them in excessive and abusive terms.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce quoted one newspaper with some approval and I wish to quote from this source, too. The source is the *Ottawa Journal* and I refer to the September 26 issue carrying an article

[**Mr. McIlraith.**]

by Duart Farquharson of the *Journal's* London bureau. The article reads in part as follows:

The head-on clash between Britain and the overseas commonwealth countries at the Accra finance ministers' meeting was not exaggerated but underplayed by the British press, according to Canadian finance minister Fleming.

To set the record straight, Mr. Fleming last week called in leading British correspondents covering the international monetary fund meeting in Vienna. With great emotion, he argued that commonwealth countries were unanimous in their condemnation of Britain's attempt to join the common market. They were not merely striking up bargaining postures, but sincerely believed that such a British move was bound to result in the disintegration of the commonwealth.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): He was not there and that is a very inaccurate statement.

Mr. McIlraith: It is interesting that the minister should say that the reports written by the press men at the press conference were wrong, that he should take the position that he was misunderstood. I think it unlikely that all the press men in the United Kingdom are wrong or are incapable of understanding the English language as spoken by the Minister of Finance. The minister takes the position that they are all out of step. Hon. members know the story about the infantry platoon sergeant.

Mr. Hees: Tell us.

Mr. McIlraith: It will be recalled that a fond mother came up to him and said that all the men in the platoon were out of step except her little Willie. I am wondering whether one should substitute the name Donald?

The comments on the situation as carried by the United Kingdom press are based on the minister's own statement to the press. This is a very competent press and the minister's violent denunciation today will not favourably impress anyone in this committee or in the country.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Duart Farquharson was not there at all.

Mr. McIlraith: I would not think that the minister's statement will favourably impress any of the press men whom the Minister of Finance so wrongly condemned in his interjections a few moments ago while I was speaking.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): His statement does not resemble the facts.

Mr. Benidickson: The *Ottawa Journal* is wrong again.

Mr. McIlraith: The press comment was founded on the press interview given by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce.