

Report on Canada-Japan Committee

should work closely together in the preparatory committee in order to ensure the success of the United Nations conference.

Since the inception of the organization for economic co-operation and development (O.E.C.D.), Japan has been an active member of the development assistance committee of that organization, but has not participated in its other activities. There is a growing recognition among members of the O.E.C.D. that Japan, as a leading industrial and trading country, could make a valuable contribution to the work of the organization and that fuller participation by Japan is therefore desirable. In our meeting in Tokyo we expressed the support of the Canadian government for full Japanese membership in the O.E.C.D.

Another important subject of discussion was our mutual interest in a number of fisheries matters. While this was not an occasion for negotiations or for seeking commitments on either side, the committee had a full and useful review of the issues involved.

It was also agreed that negotiations should be initiated between the two governments for the conclusion of an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation.

My report would not be complete without an expression of appreciation for the hospitality and friendship accorded to us on all sides during our visit to Tokyo. We received the warmest welcome by the prime minister and the other Japanese ministers, and indeed by all the Japanese we met. The arrangements made for the meeting were excellent in every respect. My colleagues and I in the Canadian government look forward to the opportunity of welcoming our Japanese friends to Ottawa when the next meeting of the committee takes place.

I am tabling copies of the joint communique. If the house so desires I would ask that the communique be printed as an appendix to *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: The minister proposes that the communique be printed as an appendix to *Hansard*. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's note: For text of communique above referred to, see appendix "B".*]

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am sure hon. members will have listened with interest to the report of the Minister of Justice on his return from his trip to Japan where he took part in trade negotiations. I had the opportunity of following some of these discussions in the columns of the English language Japanese paper, in Tokyo which pays tribute to

the work done by the minister at these meetings and which reports him as reminding, in the course of these trade negotiations, the Japanese ministers that Canada's unemployment rate is perhaps the highest in the free world. I hope the minister will not be accused of being a prophet of doom and gloom on his return.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I made no such statement. I saw that sentence appearing in the press and took steps to see it was corrected by information extended to the press. No such statement was made.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, it having been my privilege to help prepare the way for the visit of our honourable delegation from Canada to Japan I can say that we in this party have listened with much interest to the report of the discussions which took place. Certainly they are the kind of thing of which Canada needs more. If we are going to have any solid trade pattern at all in the Canadian economy we must expect to buy if we want to sell, and it is discussions like these which help our trade relationships achieve a greater depth of understanding.

I would just remark that herein is the pattern that ought to be developing with many other nations, where our trade has not reached the proportions which it could and must reach if we are to go forward into the tremendous potential of the era which is ahead of us. I too would like to emphasize the interest which the Japanese have in Canada, but I believe there is a woeful lack in information exchanged between our countries, information which is necessary to develop a greater understanding on the part of the public.

One of the most common questions I was asked was "Could you send us some films dealing with your Eskimos and Indians?" This is just part of a pattern which is healthy and which I trust will be greatly extended in the future.

There is one other remark I should like to make, and I think it is relevant to what the minister said. In speaking about the preparations for this conference he referred not only to the Japanese officials but also to our representatives in that country. Certainly I found that our Canadian people are held in great regard and high esteem in countries like Japan, and this is another reason why we can make discussions such as these as successful as they have been.