

*Supply—Trade and Commerce*

and Commerce to take into account those things that come within the jurisdiction of other ministers in the government, it is his responsibility to be very much aware of all the elements of policy that will assist him in the development of policies for Canada in the trade field. I feel that the minister probably is aware of this. I hope in his discussions he has encountered the necessity for this; for this is a policy area to which we must devote far greater attention than we have in the past.

I believe there are many elements that have to be taken into account in providing a basis for the expansion of our interests in the Pacific. We have to consider trade policies with nations both bordering upon and located within Pacific regions. This includes the states of the United States on the Pacific coast, and not forgetting for one moment the state of Alaska. We must consider the relationship of Canadian foreign policy to those policies already established by Canada's commonwealth partners in the Pacific and the United States; foreign aid programs now in effect, with special emphasis on expansion of aid programs to commonwealth nations in the Pacific, including southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent; north Pacific fisheries policy; the development of the interchange of peoples through educational aid programs and, as has just been emphasized, tourist travel; accelerated development of west coast harbour facilities, including northern and island ports; improved highway communication between the west coast and north central B.C. and the northern resource areas of the prairie provinces and the Peace river region of B.C. and Alberta; the exploration of either the feasibility or desirability of seeking a corridor through the Alaska Panhandle with free port facilities on the coast to tap the potential resources of northwestern British Columbia and the Yukon.

It is quite obvious that the suggestions I have made do not fall within the ministerial responsibility of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, but they do fall within an area in which he is interested. The things I have suggested which should form the elements of policy in the Pacific will have a very definite effect on the expansion of trade in the whole of the Pacific region. I could come back to the question of communications. It will not be possible for the government of Canada to undertake the most advantageous trading arrangements in the Pacific if it is not possible for the newly developing resource areas in

British Columbia, the Yukon and the northern sections of the prairies to get their products rapidly and economically to coastal ports. It will be of no advantage to develop an expanded means of communication—and particularly I am thinking in terms of highway communications to the coast—if the coastal facilities are not adequate to handle the products, particularly the newly developed, highly specialized products that are coming out of our western industries.

These things are essential, and we have to consider them in the development of a trade policy. We have to take into account all these related policies which are part and parcel of our over-all objective, the development of the Canadian economy. I hope when he speaks the minister will indicate whether he is prepared to work together with the other members of the cabinet and with the governments of the provinces of western Canada, including British Columbia, to see what leadership all levels of government can give in the development of an integrated Pacific policy.

It is said that something like two thirds of the world's people live in the Pacific region or adjacent to it. We recognize that the economies of many of the nations in that area are underdeveloped. They are not yet at that point where they can trade with us on an equal basis. We have, however, sound reasons to consider the greater role that Canada may play in helping to improve the economic conditions of those nations, so that in due course we may be able to trade with them on a more equal basis and find markets for Canadian products which do not now exist, or in which we are finding competition from other resource developing nations difficult, or in which tariff policies perhaps are a hindrance.

In any event, when two thirds of the world's people are located in an area to which we have ready access through our Pacific coast, it is about time that Canada really devoted all its resources of knowledge and interest to the development of a policy that will give us a far greater share of the economic activity, political activity, trade activity, immigration and social interchange of people in the entire area. It is absolutely essential that we stop turning our attention completely either to the south or to the Atlantic, and consider that there may be a potential we have tended to overlook in an area that is just as much a part of the Canadian area of interest as any other part of the world.

We must recognize that in tapping trade markets in South America we can reach a