

America, the Caribbean and South America. Although we do a good deal of trade with them it seems to me this trade could increase. A few years ago five different ministers went on a mission to South America and Latin America. I had hoped that as a result of that mission there would have been an intensified effort to establish our own large group of trading partners here in this hemisphere. But I am afraid that has not come about. I would encourage the Minister of Industry, Trade, and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) to follow that course a little more assiduously.

Two of my parliamentary colleagues and I recently made a trip to Cuba. At the invitation of Cuba the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie), the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) and I had an opportunity to look at the trade in that particular country at first hand. I believe we could have more trade with that country. As trade is a two-way street, of course we would also have to be willing to buy a little more from them. Since this could affect our trade with some other countries it poses many problems. We have the commonwealth trade preference which is a good thing. So long as it remains a good thing I think we should maintain it. It is supposed to be to our advantage to have the commonwealth preference. If it should be a disadvantage to us, then I believe we should take another look at the whole system.

We have not been able to buy sugar from Cuba, for example, to any great extent because of the existing tariff, whereas the Commonwealth countries enjoy preferential treatment. We in this country buy sugar at present throughout the world, from South Africa, Australia and the Island of Mauritius. Sugar has to be transported back and forth across the Pacific Ocean. It seems silly that Australia should sell sugar to us while Cuba sells it to Japan, Malaya and so on. It seems to me there should be a change in that system so that we could buy more sugar from Cuba and perhaps the Australians could sell more of their sugar to other countries. South Africa sells a good deal of sugar to Canada and enjoys the lack of tariff as a result of its former membership in the commonwealth. It no longer is a part of the commonwealth but still enjoys preferential treatment. I believe that, where it would be to our advantage, other countries should enjoy that kind of treatment. This does not apply only to Cuba. We should take a careful look at all trade in this hemisphere. I hope the minister will adopt that posture in the future.

Before finishing I should like to mention something else which is close to my heart. I refer to the control of Crown corporations by the elected representatives of the people. More and more there are bodies which are independent of parliament and therefore independent of the elected Members of Parliament. This is always done under the guise of the suggestion that there should not be any political interference. Political interference is supposed to be a bad thing. Yet we have something much worse. We have people who do not have a mandate from anyone making serious decisions and ignoring the wishes of those of us who have been sent here by the people of Canada. The people of Canada do not understand that. They say their representatives are powerless to say anything about a body created by the federal government. This is why once again I have submitted for the order paper a notice of motion asking the government to present to the House a

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proposal whereby Members of Parliament would serve on boards and agencies of the Crown. I do not think we would act necessarily as great experts, but at least we would have a watchdog effect on the spending of the government. That is why the people of Canada sent us here. I believe we would also be able to keep an eye on the bureaucracy which is taking the form of an inverse pyramid as the years go by.

I note that my time is just about up and therefore I shall terminate on that note. Once again, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, and your colleagues on your election.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, let me first congratulate Your Honour. I think I should also congratulate the House on the fact that Your Honour occupies the place you do at this particular time. I congratulate as well the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) who, as your deputy, I am sure will bring to the House good judgment, common sense and a knowledge of the rules. I pause here for a moment to say that we appear to be slowly reaching toward a point where there will be in the chair the independence, the objectivity and the capacity to deal with the most difficult problems, not in the form of persons who inhabit the chair but in the sense in which the Chair is regarded. It has been a very difficult problem. My hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), took a very innovative course before the election of 1968. He made a valiant effort during the course of that election to try to attach to the Chair an attitude of independence of a permanent nature.

It is not my intention to talk about a permanent Speaker, although I have my views on that. But at least by the presence of Your Honour here again and by the presence of the deputy to Your Honour I think we are reaching toward a stage where in my view and in my hope—and I believe in the hope of most members of the House—we will be able to attach to the Chair permanently and forever those qualities which are so essential. The giving up of the right to appeal from rulings—there have been times when I have had some doubts about that—basically was a sound judgment if we are to keep that independence. However, I should like to make the suggestion that while this minority parliament subsists it might well provide an opportunity for the House to review the changes made in the rules to ascertain the defects, imbalances and difficulties which have been created—and we have created them—as a result of those changes.

• (1210)

Your Honour was good enough at different times during the last session to make a fairly lengthy list up to the end of parliament of items that should be considered by the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization. I hope that before this minority parliament runs its course, in light of the proportion of members on both sides of the House, there will be an opportunity to review what we have done and to make those changes which have to be made. One of them which I would like to see, Sir, would be at least the right to have in the form of a stated case from Your Honour from time to time a review of some of the decisions that have been made so that we will not dig