

*Supply—External Affairs*

from this in Canada. There is no reason why Canada should not be giving leadership in this area as well.

Living, as we do, in the shadow of the United States we sometimes think there is not very much we can offer in the way of leadership, so we follow along and adopt the attitude "me, too". I believe it is possible at this time for Canada to give leadership and direction, even to the United States, in regard to various aspects of foreign policy, certainly with regard to Central and South America.

I began to think this afternoon that the minister would not even refer to Latin America. Then, just before the close of his speech, he did mention the subject. I was disappointed that there was not more positive intention indicated in those parts of his speech which related to the situation in that area. He said the government was watching discussions which are now taking place within the organization of American states. He also said he thought public opinion was more favourable to Canada's taking a more active part in the affairs of that organization. I think that is sheer dilly-dallying. I am convinced we should be getting into the organization of American states, not just sitting back and watching what is taking place but carrying our own responsibility. How can we offer to be a good neighbour if we are not willing to show at least a neighbourly attitude? After all, the cost of friendship is friendliness. We do not show friendliness if we simply sit back in an armchair waiting for a more convenient time to take action.

As we sit here in Ottawa tonight it is worth remembering that Cuba, the West Indies and Central America are all closer to us than many of the extremities of our own nation. It is also worth remembering that in defiance of the Monroe doctrine which has kept American shores free from outside interference for a century and a half, Cuba is now a satellite of the Soviet union, pro-communist fronts are strong in most of the Latin American republics, and the United States alliance for progress has yet to get off the ground. I noticed a news report today which indicated that Haiti had been infiltrated by Cuban agents, and that it will not be long before there is more serious trouble in that country. We all know what is happening in British Guiana, in Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru. In these circumstances we should not be waiting for the lid to blow off the kettle; we should be trying to do something about the situation while there is time. We, in Canada, cannot bury our heads in the sand and pretend these problems do not exist.

It was good to hear the minister say last week there would be increased aid to some of these countries and that the Caribbean

islands, in particular, are to receive increased help. Here we have a group of islands whose whole affection looks toward Canada. These islanders expect Canada to do something to help them. I know this very well, because I am intimately acquainted with the area. Yet we have made such a little effort. We could, in fact, go in with a reasonable amount of assistance—something which we are completely capable of—and make a total effort which would leave its impact and achieve some results.

It is true, of course, that the amount of money poured into an area is not the only criterion of assistance. One of the greatest paradoxes in this postwar world is that the billions and billions of dollars of gift money from the United States has in so many instances failed to win friends or influence people. All too often it has caused suspicion and many times enmity. We do not have to sit back and think that, because we do not have the billions of dollars to give away, there is no other way to indicate friendship and demonstrate our intentions to be of assistance. In one important respect I believe we are in a position to help more than the United States, and that is in the realm of people. Canada with its strong and valued French Canadian background has people of Latin background, but yet who have the experience of our modern form of government and productive techniques who could be immensely helpful in making this concept of an alliance for progress work in the Latin American countries.

I have been greatly impressed by news reports in the last few days concerning a group of 70 Latin Americans now in Canada with a production called "El Condor", the story of how communist activities in the universities of Peru were beaten down by a new concept on the part of students who were looking for something but who before could not find it. Here we have Latin Americans coming to Canada and trying to help us in our problems. How much more could our own French Canadian people be spearheading the attack as far as friendship and development is concerned in the Latin American world. The Latin American situation is serious and is growing progressively worse. I believe the government would be failing to carry out its mandate if it did not take a greater part in the development of intercourse with Latin America immediately, not at some time in the future.

The second direction in which I would wish to turn our thoughts is to the commonwealth. I should like to congratulate the minister on the steps he has taken to stress the importance of this body in the security council of the United Nations. I should like