

the resolution introduced by the honourable senator from Shelburne (Hon. Mr. Robertson), on the desirability of Canada entering into reciprocal trade agreements with the countries of the 21-nation group, so that by becoming associated with their 500 million people we might remove the tragic possibilities of Canada's becoming isolated from the great modern currents of trade, I urged that we should begin to consolidate our position. It seems unfortunate that so little has been accomplished along this line since that time.

Meanwhile, as we all know, the United States has embarked on a new world trading policy. The recent call by our Government to convene a trade conference of the free nations seems to me likely to resolve itself mostly into a meeting of the members of GATT, and I doubt whether this would be an adequate solution to our problems.

In dealing with the economic situation in Canada, the honourable senator donned his rose-tinted glasses and proceeded to ask, "So what is all this worry about now?" Despite the fact that at present anyone who questions the suggestion that "we never had it so good" is accused of selling Canada short, I feel I should mention at least one statistic. I refer to the forecast of the gross national product, incorporated in the report of the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects, page 327. On referring to the forecast mentioned by the honourable senator from Carleton I find that, as is usual in such cases, alternative possibilities were presented. Under one set of possible conditions it was suggested that our gross national product might reach \$39.5 billion by 1965, and that under some different conditions it might reach \$41.8 billion.

I would remind honourable senators that these estimates are, of course, in terms of 1955 dollars. Therefore, a comparison with current figures must be adjusted to take into account price changes, to make the figures comparable.

I am informed that when the current gross national product figure of \$30.4 billion, which was quoted by the honourable senator, is properly adjusted, the figure which can be compared to this in the Gordon Report is in the order of \$33 billion, suggesting a rate of growth of less than 3 per cent per annum, which compares to a rate of growth of 4.7 per cent suggested in the Gordon Report on the lower estimate.

I should like to make a short reference to unemployment. It is true there was some decrease in unemployment between mid-August and mid-September. There was a decided drop, but we all know that the main factor governing this was the many students who returned to school after looking for jobs all summer. It is clear from the Gordon Report, which was quoted by the honourable

senator from Pickering (Hon. Mr. Grosart), that there have been many suggestions as to what may be considered a tolerable condition.

Views on this matter obviously change with the passage of time. I seem to recall that in the more or less recent past there was some suggestion that no one should suffer because of involuntary unemployment.

Honourable senators, it has always seemed to me that it makes a great difference whether one is simply a statistic or one of those who are suffering because of involuntary unemployment.

Unemployment still remains higher in the Atlantic provinces than elsewhere. The honourable senator from Pickering (Hon. Mr. Grosart) quoted statistics from which he argued that there was full employment, based on what I believe Mr. Gordon meant by the existence of a tolerable condition. I think this is probably the first time the honourable senator so unquestionably accepted a statement of Mr. Gordon's. I am inclined to think that this is one of the instances where statistics were used as a drunken man uses a lamp post, more for support than illumination.

Honourable senators, there is another matter to which I should like to draw your attention today. On October 16, the honourable senator from Murray Harbour (Hon. Mrs. Inman) and I were absent from this chamber. We were attending the annual meeting of A.P.E.C., of which we have been members since its inception. The meeting was held in Fredericton, my home city. You will perhaps forgive me if I say that I welcomed the opportunity to be in Fredericton when it was at its best, with the colourful leaves of its beautiful trees casting reflections on the Saint John River, so widely known as the Rhine of America and which contributes so much to the life of New Brunswick and to the city of Fredericton. Certainly on the day we were there Fredericton lived up to Sir Charles G. D. Roberts' description of it:

Fredericton, my City, a jewel and a dream.

Dr. Desmond Pacey, an outstanding Canadian author, who is a professor on the staff of the University of New Brunswick, in an article which appears in the *Atlantic Advocate* of February 1962, quoted A. J. M. Smith as saying:

The Fredericton of the seventies... appears like an enchanted city, with its elm-shaded streets, its generously proportioned old homes, its Cathedral, and the college on the hill, while the river winding through the town and the wooded slopes behind brings the forests and an echo of the sea almost to people's very doorsteps.