

Trade with Caribbean Federation

less favoured than ourselves. On the negative side there is another aspect. It is simply this: What will happen to these areas if Canada does not come in and share this responsibility? It is obvious that Britain regards this general area as being within the realm of Canadian or United States influence and that she is no longer in a position to spend large sums of money on it. Therefore the area is more or less at loose ends. Traditionally the connection has been with Canada. Through the shipping service prior to the war a close connection was built up and there is still a tremendous wealth of good will toward Canada. Many of their citizens have come to study in Canada and many of our educators have gone down there to assist them.

This is being carried on today, as a team of Canadians in the medical and educational field continues to work in the general area. But if we do not continue and strengthen these contacts, then someone else will come into the vacuum. It may be the United States. More likely it will be some of those cross currents which today are so evident in the area and it will be a tragedy if those cross currents should begin to take hold because we neglect our responsibility there. It is well known by all of us that today there is a communist government in Cuba, in the West Indies area, and the effect of the ideological struggle which goes on between those who respect freedom as the basis on which society should be built, and those who belong to the dictatorial or the totalitarian type of government, threatens that area. The area is only going to be saved as we in Canada move in for personal reasons, on the one hand, because there is a tremendous opportunity there, and for a definite moral reason, on the other hand. I am convinced we have a responsibility there. They are just on our doorstep and regard us with good will. If we do not move in, somebody else is going to do so. Thus I support the resolution, and I trust that it will be supported in every part of the house because I think this is something that is not only of national interest, but of national concern to all Canadians who look beyond our own personal problems within Canada.

Mr. John Mullally (Kings): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to participate in the discussion initiated by my friend and fellow islander, the hon. member for Queens (Mr. Macquarrie). I must say that I certainly share his concern for those other islanders who live some miles to the south of us. First of all,
[Mr. Thompson.]

I commend the hon. member for Queens (Mr. Macquarrie) for bringing this important matter to the attention of the house and initiating the discussion we are having today. I assure him that I support very strongly the opinion he has expressed. The first time I spoke in the house during the first session of this parliament I said, as found on page 427 of *Hansard* of May 29, 1963:

The geographically natural trading routes for the Atlantic provinces lead us to the eastern seaboard of the United States, the Caribbean area and, indeed, in the broadest view to the entire European Atlantic community. I believe, therefore, that more efforts should be made, first of all, to establish a greater volume of trade between the Atlantic provinces and the West Indies and other areas in the Caribbean.

This is still my view. I strongly endorse any efforts directed toward the establishment of more and freer trade between our country and the West Indies. Anything done to expand our trade in this regard will be of benefit to our country and of parallel or even greater benefit to the West Indies.

We have certain advantages which should contribute to and assist trading between the two areas. First of all, and this applies particularly to the Atlantic area of Canada, we can take advantage of much cheaper water transportation between our Canadian ports and ports in the Caribbean. Second, we have been traditional trading partners for many years and we have built up a mutual respect for one another which should provide an excellent framework on which to build or expand our future trade. As the hon. member for Queens (Mr. Macquarrie) has mentioned, many years ago we began trading with this area. For over 200 years our country has been engaged in trade with the Caribbean area.

Third, and I think this is a very important factor, the economy of our country and that of the West Indies is complementary, and as such there is a sound basis for commercial relations between the two areas. I might also add that our climates are complementary and this, of course, has contributed to a very great extent to the development of the tourist business in the West Indies which has been of a very considerable benefit to that area.

I mentioned that our economies are complementary. In this respect the principal products of the Caribbean area, such as sugar, molasses, cocoa and other foodstuffs, are all products which our country has to import. On the other hand, the main requirements of the Caribbean area are products which we have in abundance such as wheat flour, fish,