

Canada in the past - whereby we covered our American deficit with our European surplus, can only operate if Western Europe, the pivot in the world trading system, can play its former role. It is surely obvious too, that the lowering of trade barriers and the effective expansion of international trade, as envisaged at Geneva last summer and more recently at Havana, can only be realized if Europe is in a position to improve its living standards and increase both exports and imports. The convertibility of exchange, without which effective multilateral trading is clearly impossible, cannot be achieved if Europe lives only by outside support. In short, a growing and freer international trade, upon which we in Canada depend more than most countries, presupposes a rehabilitated Western Europe, and we must, consequently, make every effort to promote that rehabilitation.

In doing so, we are not only demonstrating good business sense, but we are also showing our awareness of the international importance of our action. Democracies which want to maintain their self-respect and play their part in the community of nations, have to live up to their responsibilities, even if it means self-denial and inconveniences for a temporary period.

In closing, let me emphasize again the enormous stake which Montreal has in the success of the European Recovery Programme. It is a striking fact that last year nearly four-fifths of the export cargo loaded in this port was destined for points in the British Isles and Continental Europe. Good business prospects loom ahead for the Province of Quebec and for Montreal in particular, as we may expect that as a result of the Economic Cooperation Act exports will remain, for some time to come, at the present high levels. We may reasonably hope that when Europe has recovered and no longer requires outside assistance, Montreal will continue to be the focal point of an expanding European trade.

In their own personal interests, I would, therefore call upon Montreal business men to realize their opportunities and to show their initiative and resourcefulness in dealing with the many problems which are bound to arise in the next few years.

I am optimistic in that I believe that, with the cooperation and understanding of responsible men in business, labour and government in the Western Democracies, E.R.P. will be a milestone towards improved economic conditions and better understanding among the nations of the world.