

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

wealth—if I may use that somewhat historic expression—could not reciprocate by opening a mission in Bridgetown. I know, too, that one of the finest diplomats on embassy row today is the High Commissioner for Barbados.

The Barbados High Commission has been in Ottawa since 1967. But apparently austerity has clamped its heavy hand upon the Department of External Affairs and for five years we have not mustered the funds or the interest to open a diplomatic post in the capital of this friendly and charming Caribbean Commonwealth state. The minister in his reply used the expression “the usual financial constraints”. But of late we are in an era of big spending, of far-flung largesse. Think of the millions cast about by the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier)!

I have long held that our relations with the friendly states of the Commonwealth Caribbean are of tremendous significance to our foreign policy. If Canada cannot carry out a meaningful, useful and effective foreign policy with these our long appreciated and well known neighbours, then our whole external outlook is in question.

Since my inquiry there has been an announcement, not in this House—we rarely expect that courtesy now—to the effect that among new missions to be opened by 1974 Barbados will be included. For this step I must express my approval and not dilate upon the time wasted in strengthening our ties. But must we really wait until 1974? What is the problem? Are we short of staff? Are we so bereft of funds that an area so vital as the Commonwealth Caribbean must be downgraded for another two years?

This government, too, has not hesitated to proclaim its concern for the struggles of the majority in southern Africa, but for long we have demurred from appointing a high commissioner for Zambia, which of all countries must be closest to the struggle being carried on in those African states where the majority has not been given full political rights. In view of our sustained preachments it would have seemed normal and natural that a mission to Zambia be given high priority. But Algeria and several other nations came first. Zambia, too, is on the 1974 list. I suppose we should be thankful that it is on the list at all. Yet, Mr. Speaker, I fear that this is something more than an indication that the austerity squeeze is lingering on at the Department of External Affairs while other departments are embarking upon a glorious free-spending era.

I am troubled lest this is but another indication of the isolationist or withdrawal syndrome which has been a consistent part of the foreign policy of this government. Not long ago I checked the record and found that nearly a dozen countries had embassies here without reciprocal Canadian missions in their countries. I think we should not withdraw from our Commonwealth association. I think we should strengthen our ties with friendly Commonwealth states. I think we should not turn inward but should accept our role on the international stage. I hope that the minister will accelerate the opening of missions in Zambia and Barbados and thus strengthen, reconfirm and underline our strong ties of friendship and good will with the people of these friendly Commonwealth countries.

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

• (2210)

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I assure the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) that his warm expression of feeling towards Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean is shared to an equal degree by the government. I think the hon. member may have misread the communique of April 10 in which the opening of these missions was announced. Six new posts were announced at that time, being at Barbados, Hungary, Korea, Morocco and Zambia, where there will be either high commissions or embassies and, as well, at Atlanta, Georgia, where there will be a consulate general. The press release said:

The posts should all be in full operation in 1974.

That is not meant to suggest that the opening of any of these six posts is to be delayed until that date. They will be opened as soon as reasonable accommodation can be found. This will be easy in some of the countries involved. In some where the housing shortage is acute, there may be delay and that delay may extend until 1974. The delay will be as short as reasonable in all cases, Mr. Speaker. I hope that Barbados and Zambia will be among the posts which will be first opened.

TRANSPORT—REPLACEMENT OF CANADIAN BY FOREIGN VESSEL—REPORTED NEGOTIATIONS BY CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS FOR PURCHASE OF VESSELS IN SWEDEN

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago one of those marine legal miracles occurred in which a German built freighter at or near Halifax took on Singapore registry, this action having dire effects on the few vessels now remaining under the Canadian flag, under Canadian ownership and sailing Canadian waters between Halifax and St. John's, Newfoundland. The vessel I refer to is the *Travetal*, manned by German officers and a Spanish crew.

I make nothing of that except to welcome those gentlemen to Canadian waters. I regret that the presence of that ship in Canadian waters means that two Canadian vessels, one *Federal Hudson*, and the other *O.K. Service XI*, will probably have to pack up their careers. Some attempts are being made to continue those Canadian vessels in operation. Let us hope they succeed. However, hope is somewhat different from government policy that will ensure that these efforts succeed.

On April 18 I directed the following question to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) in this chamber:

Would the minister investigate the recent waiver by customs which resulted in a foreign vessel, *Travetal*, and its crew, replacing the Canadian vessel, *Federal Hudson*, and its Canadian crew on the east coast. Would he also look into the circumstances in which Canadian National is reportedly negotiating in Sweden for two vessels for the Newfoundland trade?

It was agreed between the minister and myself that the position would be made clear this Tuesday evening, and I see that the parliamentary secretary to the minister is here with information. I am not much concerned about the reported dickering of Canadian National in Sweden. That may have been a rumour. If it is, I am sorry that I