

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 55/33

### THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON ON CANADA'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

An address by the Chairman, The Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects, Mr. Walter L. Gordon, to the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, at Edmonton, August 29, 1955.

... I am delighted to be here ... because of the opportunity it gives me of telling the Mayors of the cities and towns from one end of Canada to the other what the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects will try to do during the course of the next year - and the kind of help that is going to be needed if the task is to be done well. And I can think of no other group of men and women who will be more vitally concerned with the everyday problems involved in our economic development over the next 20 or 30 years than those of you who have the great responsibility of governing in the municipal field.

As you may know, the Royal Commission is composed of five people - Dr. Raymond Gushue from Newfoundland, who is President of Memorial University in St. John's; M. Omer Lussier, from Quebec City, a consulting Forestry Engineer and former Professor at Laval; Mr. A.E. Grauer of Vancouver, who is President of the B.C. Electric Company; and Edmonton's own Dr. Andrew Stewart, President of the University of Alberta. As I hail from Ontario, we would seem to represent a reasonably good cross-section in a strictly geographical sense. Whether we shall be able to meet successfully the other and somewhat more exacting tests that all forecasters must be prepared to face remains to be seen. All I can promise is that we shall try to be objective and that we shall do our best.

M. Lussier, Mr. Grauer and I returned to Edmonton yesterday afternoon from a trip to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, down the Peace and Mackenzie River valleys as far as Aklavik. We had a most interesting and useful trip and we met a lot of wonderful people including Indians and Eskimos. and I might mention in passing that we were struck by the intelligence as well as the fortitude of the leading Eskimos and Indians we talked with in Aklavik. We are fortunate to have such people as fellow Canadians. We were impressed with the problems of living in that vast area to the north of us including particularly the difficulties of transportation and the distances to be covered. Everything is relative, and living in Toronto it is perhaps understandable that one should think of Edmonton itself as being pretty far to the North. It