

*Supply—Finance*

That is the only document made available for public circulation, and the newspapers. That document having been made available to the press, even although by mistake, clumsiness or what have you, by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, I asked that the actual text covering the parts of the speech that are dealt with in this press report be made available so there should be no confusion as to just what was said, because I think it is of the utmost concern to the country that there be great accuracy in this matter. The minister refused this request.

I have made reference to this matter in earlier debates. Indeed on April 24, the opposition moved an amendment to a supply motion in these words:

This house regrets the protectionist and inconsistent trade policies of the government and its failure to develop a long term foreign economic policy to enable Canada to participate fully in the challenging new opportunities in the field of international trade by implementing a vigorous program to promote the expansion of our secondary manufacturing industries and by encouraging the development of an Atlantic economic community.

In that debate on April 24 and 25 reference was made to the European common market and a good deal of the debate turned on the positions of the parties concerning the European common market. I do not propose to repeat the arguments made at that time but I want to make passing reference to the fact that this subject matter was dealt with and I charged the two ministers concerned with threats of retaliation to the United Kingdom if she joined the common market, and that their negative and threatening attitude was only harmful to our interests.

The Minister of Finance is on record as denying the newspaper stories which I quoted on that occasion. I think he will recall that he denied them quite strenuously, using such terms as "nonsense" and terms of that sort.

**Mr. Chevrier:** His usual epithets.

**Mr. McIlraith:** I can give the minister the exact reference if he wishes. The point is that, having taken that position with regard to stories that were mild compared with the current stories of the positions of the two ministers, he now comes along and is again in the position where he takes the offensive in repudiating the newspaper comment and reports of the position taken by the ministers. But this time we have the actual text of the speech, or part of the speech delivered by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I take it to be admitted that the part of the speech the U.P.I. put out is accurate. I refer to that part of the text which supports the stories, and the release seems to form the basis of most of the stories. It is with this matter that I wish to deal tonight.

[Mr. McIlraith.]

I think this whole subject matter has got out of context in the argument of the Minister of Finance this afternoon. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, in the United Kingdom House of Commons on July 31, had something to say on this subject. I think it should be quoted for the purpose of getting the atmosphere in which the conference was held.

The part I will quote can be found either in the United Kingdom records of the House of Commons, or it is reported in the European free trade association bulletin for August and September, 1961, page 7. The excerpt I wish to quote is this:

I believe it is our duty and our interest to contribute towards that strength by securing the closest possible unity within Europe. At the same time, if a closer relationship between the United Kingdom and the countries of the European economic community were to disrupt the long-standing and historic ties between the United Kingdom and the other nations of the commonwealth, the loss would be greater than the gain.

The commonwealth is a great source of stability and strength, both to western Europe and to the world as a whole, and I am sure that its value is fully appreciated by the member governments of the E.E.C. I do not think that Britain's contribution to the commonwealth will be reduced if Europe unites. On the contrary I think its value will be enhanced.

That was the attitude taken by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom reporting to his parliament before the conference took place. I think there can be no issue that his view about the commonwealth and its being a great source of stability and strength, both to western Europe and to the world as a whole, is the correct view. I think all hon. members of this house would agree wholeheartedly with that proposition. But what has happened now is that the Minister of Finance and his colleague have by their conduct taken a position that is destructive of the commonwealth, and they have—

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Pardon?

**Mr. McIlraith:** I said, Mr. Chairman, that the ministers, by their position at the Accra conference, have done something that is destructive of the commonwealth.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Ridiculous.

**Mr. McIlraith:** They may not have intended to do it, but that is the inevitable consequence of the line of argument they took.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** No.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Perhaps I might be allowed to develop my argument. I am not accusing hon. gentlemen opposite of wilfully doing it. I am accusing them of doing it—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Through ignorance.