

The Address—Mr. Low

Against that background of communist global strategy it seems to me we ought to consider the sober truth, that the so-called Christian and other enlightened free nations of the world have not yet had the courage or ability to make an honest effort to solve the two problems that have plagued humanity for hundreds of years. I refer to the problems of distribution and war. Also, we ought to realize that it is no longer possible to condemn half the world to perpetual poverty in the interests of the favoured half. To my mind that has never been any better than a callous indifference to the sufferings of our fellow men, a dog-eat-dog policy. Surely we ought to remember with thanksgiving that we belong to the favoured half of the world. We have been richly blessed by divine Providence. I believe it is our obligation to share our good fortune with those of our brothers who are less fortunate in other parts of the world.

For some centuries now countless millions of human beings in other lands have languished in ignorance and unbelievable poverty. I saw some of that poverty this summer, and it is very difficult to get a picture of it over to the people who live in this land. But let us never forget for one moment that modern communication and transportation services have made known far and wide the advantages the favoured half of the world enjoys. The backward peoples have awakened. There is a widespread impulse amongst them toward nationalism and economic independence which is bound to wreck all our hopes for international peace if we in the rich and favoured areas of the world do not step forward and help them to rise above their poverty, and above even a subsistence standard of living.

There has to be something better than that. And remember that many millions of people in very large parts of the world have been captured by imperialist bolshevism simply because the communists have jumped on the nationalistic bandwagon and persuaded the unfortunate and hopeless masses that the best friends of nationalism are the communists. They have been able to get that idea over somehow. We in the favoured nations are just now waking up to the fact that one of the evils for which our nations in this generation may have to pay dearly is our determination in the past to compel the weak and the poor to accept continuously the race against the rich and favoured nations on terms dictated by the rich.

I have in mind, when I say that, such things as the unconditional most-favoured-nation clause in trade treaties imposed by the United States upon all nations which trade with her.

Unfortunately Canada has been dabbling in such things herself in late years. The international gold standard of Bretton Woods is another example. I could go on naming them, but that will do for the moment. The great problem we must solve is that of making available to the areas of the world that need it the surpluses of wealth produced by the richer countries, such as Canada and the United States, which are working under an incentive system. And we must do it without reducing the independence of the people we help, and certainly without killing or discouraging their struggling industries. These things can be done; they are not impossible.

An international commodities clearing house such as we have proposed from time to time would help very greatly, and great help would also come through the expansion of the idea of technical assistance for backward areas, under the Colombo plan. But let me say that it would have to be a big expansion, not just a miserable million dollars a year. It would have to be a big expansion of these ideas; and there will have to be a most unselfish approach to the whole problem if it is to be solved.

This year Canada increased her contribution to the Colombo plan by \$1 million. Mr. Speaker, I do not have to say that was niggardly and that it was not at all representative of the wishes of an unselfish Canadian people, generally. You know, the government of Canada and that of the United States—particularly that of the United States—have been crediting themselves with some unusual virtues for doing in just a small way under the Colombo plan and the Point Four program the things that have actually been necessary for their own survival. The United States has proved conclusively that the huge gifts to other countries, gifts running to scores of billions of dollars since 1945, did not hurt her economy in any way, nor did it reduce the standard of living of the American people. Rather it kept employment and economic activity in that country at a very high level. And these huge gifts, one might say, did not alter or change in any way the basic economic structure of the United States—nor that of Canada, so far as we have gone. It is interesting, however, to note that the attempt of the United States about a year and a half ago to cut down their overflow of gifts to other countries under these plans did bring about in that country a recession that threatened to bog down into a real depression.

Now, with the wonderful scientific resources at our disposal the possibilities for the production of new wealth are almost limitless. I think it is a sad commentary on our so-called enlightenment that we have let our