

*Tariff Negotiations*

plans and programs the government is going to develop to assist them through what will be a fateful transitional period.

I still feel that we are no wiser now than when the minister commenced his statement. The detailed portions of it are of course helpful and will be studied, but so far no clear indication is given to the business community as to what kind of program the government are going to follow, what kind of concessions they are willing to make, who is going to be affected by this, and what plans the government has to assist these industries through the transitional period. We still have no clear indication from the government where it is going in this regard. We have no announced policy in regard to adjustment assistance, without which we have been told we are seriously handicapped and cannot carry on effective negotiations. We were glad to hear the minister talk about commodity agreements, because in many areas these are the only long term solution. We would like to know what the plans are to work out agricultural problems with the European economic community.

All I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that it is just not possible to deal with this matter on motions. It is so serious, so far reaching, so complex, and carries with it such great implications for the whole Canadian economy that I urge that at some convenient time in the very near future a thorough debate be scheduled to discuss this matter.

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, this not being the time for speech making or debate, I would impress upon the Minister of Trade and Commerce the necessity of keeping the house informed on this matter. I support the remarks just made by the hon. member for Danforth and urge that an opportunity be provided for not only a debate on this entire issue but also for studying this whole question, because certainly trade is one of the basic problems that we must face in this increasingly competitive economic world.

I congratulate the minister for having again raised this matter, and I think his remarks indicate something that is sorely needed in our economy. I refer to the need for more consultation and co-operation among the various aspects of our economy. It is a good thing that business is being brought into it. I believe the work of Canada on the committee and the leadership which Canada can give in relation to trade can be made much more effective on this basis.

I would just add that we in Canada do stand in need of a permanent and projected

[Mr. Scott.]

trade policy for agriculture which will give the necessary assurance to what is still our basic industry. I also remind the minister and his government that along with this question of trade one of the most vital aspects which cannot be separated from it, is the problem in the world today concerning the balance of payments. Along with the newer trade patterns there must also be a new financial arrangement worked out which can facilitate the trade policies which are developed.

I would also remind him that we have not only an obligation but an opportunity within our own commonwealth of nations, and I trust that as we are looking over the entire trade situation we do not forget the aspect of trade that relates to the commonwealth. It is now some six years ago that Great Britain offered us free trade as far as their part of the commonwealth was concerned. The government at that time turned their back on this suggestion; but certainly in the over-all picture there is no better place to begin than with the commonwealth.

[Translation]

**Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I had not been told beforehand about the statement just made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Sharp). Nevertheless, that statement is indicative of the great interest shown by the government in external trade and our trade relations with countries all over the world. It seems intent on increasing negotiations to get a bigger share of international trade, especially with Europe.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) said preference should be given to commonwealth countries. Personally, I think preference should go to countries offering the best guarantees and the best terms, wherever they may be.

Those which do business with us do not do so out of love for Canada but because it is to their interest. Thus we sell wheat to foreign countries at prices lower than those in force in our own country.

It is desirable of course that we seek to deal as much as possible with foreign countries but we must not forget that our domestic market comes first.

We have overseas ambassadors, trade commissioners and others; our industrialists are represented and see to it that our trade relations are maintained and improved in those countries.

There should be government representatives in all regions of Canada to stimulate our domestic market and try to get all the countries of the world to buy our surplus production.

That is our wish and our hope in this corner of the house; moreover, we would ask