

and other members of their staff. The Secretariat of the host branch, which had a great deal of work to do, was under the control of Mr. G. R. Latour, the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The meeting was addressed by the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Mr. Arnold Smith, who is well known to many members of this chamber. He is the head of the executive body that emanates from the Prime Ministers' Conference. He talked about the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in a very reassuring way. He discussed its purely deliberative role. He emphasized the importance of the communication of views between parliamentarians and, hopefully, back in their own countries between parliamentarians and their governments in respect of problems which affect the whole Commonwealth. Mr. Smith emphasized the value of this work. To use his own words, he thought "the Commonwealth could be a greater organization than it is." This is an understatement. I do think that the aims and objectives of the Commonwealth governments and of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association coincide. If they could be ideally realized, even if they could be partially realized and implemented, it would be good for the welfare and security of the people of the Commonwealth and indeed of the world. The Commonwealth is represented on every continent, with its peoples of every colour, of every culture, race, religion and language. The kind of facility and capacity that there is among its leaders is very impressive indeed.

What I have just said may be borne out by the fact that each year the American Congress sends a delegation, and this year was no exception. From the Senate came Senator Fulbright and Senator Cook; from the house came Mr. Farbstien and Mr. Lloyd. Senator Fulbright has been coming to C.P.A. meetings for many years. He is well known, highly respected and obviously thinks a great deal of the importance of the work that is done at this meeting.

I should like to say a word about the Canadian High Commissioner in Trinidad, the honourable Gerald A. Rau, and of Mrs. Rau and of part of their large family who were there. They could not have done more for the Canadians. They had a reception at their home and invited not only all the Canadians who were available in Trinidad and Tobago

[Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West).]

but the heads of all the Commonwealth delegations, and of course all the Canadian delegation. I had an opportunity to visit the offices of Mr. Rau and to meet a good many of his senior and junior officials. He is accredited not only to that country but also to three or four other islands in the Caribbean. I wish I could have stayed longer with some of his officers, but of those with whom I spoke I can say that they are very much on top of their jobs and are doing well.

Perhaps for the benefit of the Leader of Government in the Senate I should say that one of the very charming Mrs. Rau's claims to fame is the fact that she comes from Windsor, Ontario.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** She is a very charming woman, notwithstanding—

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** I am sure the honourable senator does not mean that the women of Windsor are not all charming.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** On the contrary. However, I would like to go back and find out for myself. Whenever I have gone to Windsor, the honourable gentleman has kept me so busy talking to men I have never had a chance really to get acquainted with the ladies. Perhaps he will bear that in mind.

Let me return to my theme. I think that Canadian delegations at C.P.A. meetings are becoming more sophisticated all the time. One of the reasons for the success of this work is the excellent advance briefings. They are given by persons from External Affairs, Immigration, the Canadian International Development Corporation, Agriculture and other departments concerned with Commonwealth affairs. The briefings given to Canadians are, I believe, of an ideal type, and for this reason. We want our delegations to attend, knowing not only what our problems are but having some familiarity with the problems of other countries of the Commonwealth, whether they are big countries, donor countries, developed countries, or developing countries in the equatorial belt, in the Caribbean, in Africa and in Southeast Asia. The kind of briefing we are given is designed to make the Canadian contribution more general, more sophisticated and more knowledgeable than very often emerges from some of the national delegations, who come more concerned—and I do not blame them for it—for