

the Department's intention to open consular offices in Los Angeles and New Orleans which would thereby redistribute the burden, and attempted to hurry the process.¹⁰⁵

It is obvious, reported H.M. Wrong in 1949, Ambassador to Washington, that "...we shall have to extend our consular service in the United States if we are going to provide an effective service covering the whole country. At present, it is still necessary for us to employ the service of British consuls in cities that are remote for our own establishments."¹⁰⁶ The Department, aware of the problem, told the officials in their instructions that the large areas serviced by each office was a consideration in all further plans.¹⁰⁷

The choice of some cities and not others for posts subjected the Department to agitation by "neglected" areas. Prominent businessmen from Seattle, a city ignored in the first expansion, wrote to External Affairs urging that their home city be included in any future growth.¹⁰⁸ At this time, the Department listened favourably to such demands. Leslie Chance believed that although External ought not to pay inordinate attention to the Board of Trade:

...my own opinion is that we shall not be able to withstand the enthusiasm of these people... . The opening of a Consulate at Los Angeles in the first of the year will almost certainly set off another campaign for recognition by Seattle. Since so large a part of our consular representation in the United States is based around the idea of good will, I think we shall have to be careful not to slight these tremendous enthusiasts up in the northwest corner ...¹⁰⁹

Although Seattle's proximity to the border diminished Chance's enthusiasm, his cognizance of public opinion and his rationale for consular expansion were important in shaping his attitudes towards consular expansion, there and elsewhere.

In summary, the financial cutbacks of 1949 prompted a reassessment