

monwealth of Nations. If racial discrimination is sufficient to bar South Africa from membership, what about some of the other states? To mention just one, what about Ghana with its one-party system and the suppression of the opposition? This does not accord with our ideas of democracy or parliamentary governments. Is it not obvious, honourable senators, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to draw lines of that kind? As soon as we interfere in the internal problems of the members of the Commonwealth we are on the way to breaking up the association. I refer to internal or national problems as distinct from the international problems.

The *Globe and Mail* suggests that we study what Canada in the future can do to improve the Commonwealth relationship. In my judgment the best tool we have for this task, and the one most ready to hand, and indeed the most potent tool, is that of trade. Nothing draws people together more effectively than international trade. The association of people depending one upon the other, the fact that no deal takes place unless there is a profit to both parties, and the confidence that one must place in the other in doing business—all these things draw people together, inform them of each other and show them their mutual advantages.

Now, what do we buy from our Commonwealth neighbours? In money values, how much and what is it? On a previous occasion in this chamber I stated that were I intending to develop trade, for instance, with the new Negro states of Africa, I would not be so concerned with what we sell to them as I would be with what they have to sell to us that might contribute to our industrial efficiency and to our standard of living. If by buying from them we furnish them with Canadian exchange, we may be quite sure that they will, in turn, buy from us, because we have many things which they need and which they desire.

What then can we do to increase trade within the Commonwealth? What are the voluntary obstructions that we ourselves have constituted to block trade and interfere with the exchange of commodities? Is there something we could do to assist in removing the quotas, the tariffs and the monetary obstructions as between ourselves and other members of the Commonwealth? That is the first matter into which this committee should inquire.

Then there is the very important problem of financial aid. How much do we give? To whom do we give it? In what form do we give it?

And what is its effect on the economic conditions prevailing in the recipient country? I have heard that much of the money we spend abroad in our aid program simply goes into the pockets of the landlords and that very little of it reaches the poverty-stricken masses.

The Hon. the Speaker: Order! I am very sorry to interrupt the honourable senator, but I must once again ask honourable senators to refrain from audible discussions when another honourable senator is speaking. It is disturbing for anyone to attempt to speak while others are talking. Therefore, I would ask all honourable senators to help me keep order.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: For instance, we are building a hydro plant somewhere in India, and I am told that it has increased the land values of the district. The answer I have heard given to that statement is that it is supplying light to quite a number of municipalities. If it does supply light both physically and intellectually and so teaches the people concerned how to build hydro electric generating plants on their own, it will have been worth while; but if it simply goes, as I have said, into the pockets of the privileged classes and does not help the masses of the population, then I am no longer interested. If we are to raise taxes in order to bonus landlords, I think we ought to bonus landlords at home rather than abroad—I am not in favour of bonusing landlords. I would like to have the situation thoroughly investigated. Those who know what is happening should tell us all about it. On the other hand, I have been tremendously impressed by the work of our medical services, the men and women who rescue children, and adults too, from such maladies as trachoma in their eyes which condemns them to darkness for the rest of their lives, a condition that can be cured with very moderate expense on our part. Then there are those, both adults and children, who suffer from elephantiasis, that is, the hardening of the skin and the swelling of the limbs, the skin becoming as hard, thick and coarse as that of an elephant. It is a terrible disease, and yet I understand it is not very difficult for us, with our medical knowledge, to take care of it. There is beriberi, a disease which develops as a result of lack of vitamins, and there is scurvy and a few other diseases. Our contribution towards combatting these diseases has been great, but has cost us comparatively little. If we inquire into this situation we might wish to increase our contribution in that direction.