

He said: Honourable senators, the fifteenth meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was held in Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago, between October 5 and 18 of this year. The host was the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and Governor General Sir Solomon Hochoy presided at the opening ceremony. He is one of the most distinguished men one could meet anywhere in the Commonwealth. I will have occasion to refer to him later.

As honourable senators know, the Prime Minister is Dr. Eric Williams. He was indeed pleased to have the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meet in this country. He took occasion at the opening meeting to inform the delegates that constitutional changes were about to take place in his country which would probably result in the establishment of a republic.

The President of the Senate, Dr. J. Hamilton Maurice, was also very much in evidence. Senator Maurice is one of the great political philosophers in the C.P.A., and his contribution to the success of the meeting was notable.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, C.A. Thomasos, known to many honourable senators, was also one of the important personages from Trinidad and Tobago who made their presence felt. Mr. Thomasos, familiarly known to us all as "Tommy", was in Ottawa at the Speakers and Clerks Conference a few weeks prior to the C.P.A. meeting in Trinidad.

The chairman of the General Council, the Honourable A. G. Montano, comes from Trinidad and Tobago where he is Minister of Home Affairs and Personnel. I cannot pay adequate tribute to the indefatigable work done by Mr. Montano on the occasion of this meeting and throughout his year as chairman of the General Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He is a distinguished, enlightened and, I may add for the benefit of my female colleagues, a very handsome man. He has the added distinction of being married to a Canadian, a very beautiful and charming woman. She performed in an outstanding way during the conference in helping with the social amenities provided for the ladies who were in attendance.

The hospitality of the people was warm and deeply personal. The living accommodation and the transportation and other arrangements were of the highest order. The meetings were held in an abandoned American

Army base which was ideally converted to serve the purpose. It was air conditioned, and was equipped with an efficient sound system and other facilities, as good as can be found anywhere in the world.

This C.P.A. meeting was one of the most useful I have ever attended. It seemed to me there was more know-how, more understanding and appreciation of the problems of the Commonwealth among the delegates than at any other. I am sure others who attended will be talking about many of these factors.

During the conference the executive committee of the association met several times, and again, in my view, demonstrated its great value to the C.P.A. The Honourable Peter Howson, the leader and the co-ordinator of the executive committee, could not stay for the discussion portion of the meeting because there was an election in Australia in which his seat was at stake, and he had to get back to campaign. But, while he was there, and indeed through all this year, he did very effective work on behalf of the executive committee and the association.

I should like to pay a very special tribute to Sir Frederic Bennett of the United Kingdom delegation, who is the treasurer of that branch, and who has brought to the financial side of the work of the Executive Committee an unsurpassed understanding and knowledge of finance, investment and handling of moneys. I am satisfied, as I am sure everyone within the organization is, that the finances of the association, which are considerable each year, are under excellent control. This is a source of assurance for everyone who has any responsibility for the association.

On other occasions I have alluded to the work of the other members of the Executive Committee, and I shall not do so at this time. I have already mentioned the excellent work done by Sir Frederic Bennett, who is retiring as treasurer. He was elected to the unprecedented office of honorary adviser to the incoming treasurer. I think this meets with the approval of the incoming treasurer; certainly the executive itself approves.

The Secretariat of the General Council was very much in evidence. They had been in Trinidad a number of times during the year. Mr. Robin Vanderfelt, the Secretary General, is indefatigable and his work is indispensable. He had with him Mr. Ian Grey, Editor of Publications; Mr. Fowler, the Finance Officer; and Mr. Louis Marriot, the Deputy Editor of Publications, who comes from the Caribbean,