

in that regard. If he will just contain himself for a little while, I have some of his more startling statements in my notes and I will be glad to put them on the record.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): They will be the best part of your speech.

Mr. Pearson: We will see about that. It is understandable that the government should have very little in the speech from the throne about trade policy because of the confusion of trade voices in this government, especially in respect of what we should do about the European common market and parallel developments, including the application of the United Kingdom to join the common market. The Prime Minister and some of his colleagues, most recently the Minister of Finance in Winnipeg last Saturday night, I think—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Friday noon. Wrong again.

Mr. Pearson: The Prime Minister has told the country that in respect of the United Kingdom's application to join the common market he is confident that the United Kingdom will protect our interests. He said in Halifax that he was confident that commonwealth trade ties would not be greatly harmed. The Minister of Finance repeated that in Winnipeg last Friday noon. This represents a very startling change, especially on the part of the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Not at all.

Mr. Pearson: Well, I will now begin to quote the minister's words.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I hope you will quote them correctly because you have not been doing so for a long time.

Mr. Pearson: If the minister will throw his mind back to his trip to Accra, I would point out that in respect of this particular matter he said there that Canada acknowledged the sincerity of the United Kingdom with regard to doing their best to protect commonwealth interests. The minister said, "But hope is not enough; good intentions are not enough". Then he talked about the slippery slope on which we were entering and he pleaded with the United Kingdom not to join the European common market because it would be bad for them and bad for the commonwealth. His words were echoed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Then, Mr. Speaker, when the discordant music of this governmental anvil chorus got back to Canada and did not go over so well with the people of Canada, the government began to change its tune. Since that time

the Prime Minister in Halifax and in Newfoundland, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hamilton) over the air and also the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce have all begun to sing a different tune. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that they have gone so far in this—and this is the ultimate in casuistry, if not hypocrisy—they have gone so far in trying to explain their earlier position as to argue, especially the Minister of Agriculture, that they were merely giving the United Kingdom ammunition. The Minister of Agriculture has said that by our arguments and by our objections we were giving the United Kingdom ammunition presumably to blast its way into the European common market. These ministers say now that they were putting the British in a stronger bargaining position. That is a very different position indeed from that which they took last summer and last autumn.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce may remember the speeches he once made—I suppose he is trying to forget them now—in which he said that any trading arrangement which represented freer trade in the Atlantic area would mean exposure to United States competition and that would be fatal. That, he said, is why an Atlantic trading community is nonsensical and impossible and would cause mass unemployment in Canada. Does the minister deny that he said these things?

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I should like to correct that statement. I said that it would be fatal for some Canadian industries, and I think the Leader of the Opposition would agree with that.

Mr. Pearson: The minister has also said it would be nonsensical, impossible and would cause mass unemployment in Canada. The minister must remember he said that more than once.

At the time he was making these speeches, and this was some months ago, his colleague the Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sevigny) was saying that what we really should work for is a western hemisphere free trade area including the United States of America.

Perhaps the best example of the transition from inconsistency to incoherence was given by the Minister of Agriculture during an interview in Victoria, British Columbia, at the beginning of December. This really provides comic relief. During a press conference he said that the European common market was only a European rich man's club surrounded by a high tariff wall. I shall quote from a newspaper which is most friendly to