

*External Affairs*

from the Prime Minister a report of his recent journey to the nations of the commonwealth. I know that this would not be possible in a one-day debate, but I hope that before long we shall be able to have such a report as I have suggested from the Prime Minister. In the uncertain and, indeed, the dangerous world in which we live, one of the more encouraging aspects of the international situation is the part which the nations of the commonwealth are continuing to play in working together for peace and for constructive purposes. Of course, the commonwealth has its difficulties also, and yet it is amazing to see how it adapts itself to these difficulties and to a changing world.

The commonwealth itself is changing so rapidly and so noticeably in my view that the difference between the commonwealth we see today and the commonwealth of just a few years ago is about as marked a difference as the difference between that older commonwealth and the still older British Empire. Four-fifths of the members of the British commonwealth are now Asian. Of the ten countries presently composing it only four have indicated their desire to remain monarchies within the commonwealth. So that bond of unity which we still cherish and which other members of the commonwealth cherish does not apply in the same way to all the members. Three of them have indicated their desire to become republics. Two of them are republics and one, indeed, has an elected monarchy. I am thinking of the Federation of Malaya, where an elected monarch accepts another monarch as head of the commonwealth, certainly something new in international relations. Nevertheless, this strange machine, if I can call it that, works and is perhaps as important as it has ever been in the part it can play in acting as a link between east and west, between Asia and the west, when there are all too few such links.

Now may I say a few words about the relations of this country with the United States of America. I recall that five or six years ago I said the days of relatively easy and automatic relations between the United States and Canada were over. I got into a good deal of hot water by making that statement at the time but it is obvious now as a result of the events of the last few years that the statement was quite accurate and remains quite accurate. I suppose we now have in this country more problems with the United States than we have had at any time since we as a Canadian nation through a Canadian government became solely responsible for our relations with the United States. That does not mean, of course, that we cannot solve them;

it does not mean we shall not apply to them the same frank and friendly treatment, as the phrase goes, that we have applied in past years. But it is just as well to recognize that in spite of the fact that the plants in the garden are now being more carefully tended there are a great many difficulties in respect of this situation. These are pointed out very clearly in the Hays-Coffin congressional report which also says that while the difficulties may be great and increasing there is perhaps a greater awareness of those difficulties than in past years.

Certainly there is a greater awareness of them on the part of our friends across the line and I think that is all to the good. But I think there is also a growing awareness on the part of the members of the government—an awareness which was perhaps not so obvious to them when they were sitting on this side of the house—that it is not so easy to stand up to the United States. Or, rather, I might put it this way: it is easy enough to stand up to the United States, but it is not so easy to stand up to them for the only purpose worth while—the achievement of good results for our country.

The experience of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fulton) with regard to his intervention on the application of the anti-trust laws of the United States to this country is a good illustration of the difficulty that we encounter in this regard. The Minister of Justice, reporting on his journey to Washington on February 3, said that the reaching of an understanding on prior consultation on this particular problem was a real accomplishment. It was an accomplishment, but I would point out that in the statement made by the President of the United States in this house last summer an assurance was given in very formal words—and I quote from President Eisenhower's statement—that it was "the desire and intention of the United States to keep the doors of consultation fully open." And later in his speech, President Eisenhower said:

Yet despite these dissimilarities in form our two governments are developing and are increasingly using effective ways to consult and act together.

I know that when he said that, he was being perfectly sincere. The Prime Minister of Canada has also on more than one occasion expressed his view that progress is being made in regard to consultation between the two governments in order that difficulties which are encountered in our relations may be speedily and effectively overcome. I have mentioned only one such difficulty. And as late as January 6 of this year, not long before the Minister of Justice went to Washington,