

The Address—Mr. Denis

"It is accordingly very gratifying that all countries of the commonwealth have accepted the proposal of Canada, that a commonwealth trade economic conference be held in September of this year in Montreal."

As you will see, Mr. Speaker, there is no talk of expanding our international trade with any other group of countries than the commonwealth. The government does not seem interested in expanding our trade with France for instance or Belgium or Holland or other countries in the world. Moreover, this policy tends to reduce our trade with the United States.

The preceding government was blamed for the trade deficit with the United States, so to remedy this situation the present government decided to divert to the United Kingdom 15 per cent of our purchases in the United States. But even with this 15 per cent diversion, our balance of trade with the United States will remain unfavourable.

If such a deficit is so bad and if the policy of this government is good, why not a diversion of 30, 40, 50, 60 per cent, or of as much as necessary to eliminate this trade deficit with the United States. The sore would have been healed completely, whereas now it is only half so. What is intended in reality is shifting the sore from one place to the other, if there is a sore, and to create a new one. For instance, instead of owing \$100 to Uncle Sam only, we will owe \$85 to Uncle Sam and \$15 to John Bull. In the end, the result is the same with this difference that Uncle Sam our best customer, is dissatisfied and John Bull is not unduly happy.

I hope that when the President of the United States visits Canada, the present government will succeed in making him understand that there was nothing serious in this change and that it was made only for the purpose of influencing part of the Canadian people on the eve of an election. Now that the election is over, this matter becomes a mere wish, and to-morrow will probably be denied by those who have advocated that policy. I also hope that during the visit of the President of the Federal Republic of West Germany, this government will tell us that it intends to promote trade with that country just as with commonwealth countries and that if he wants to do business with Canada, he will be welcome to the extent where Canada will be welcome to do business with Germany.

By so doing, the present government will correct the major errors it made when coming into power, and I hope that no similar ones will be made again. We will then be

[Mr. Denis.]

able to hope that our businessmen and industrialists, free from apprehension about the present unsteadiness of the economy, will start operating again on normal schedule and will take on the thousands of employees they had to lay off.

Meanwhile, the present government cannot do anything better than to pass a bill extending the periods during which the unemployed may receive unemployment insurance benefits.

As another cure for unemployment the government proposes the construction of a highway in the Yukon and of a railway line to the Great Slave lake area which would help develop our ore resources, but it would be necessary then that this government does not act in such a way as to close our doors to the exportation of that ore.

Meanwhile, the best this government could do was to send a Canadian mission to England, not to sell our products but to buy English products.

I wonder what would be the reaction of the unemployed in Windsor if they saw English-made cars swarming over the streets of their beautiful city at a time when they cannot find any work in their Canadian plants.

If the Liberal government was accused, in the last election campaign, of putting all its business eggs in one basket, I respectfully submit that the present government is in the process of putting them in a basket full of holes, and is about to deliver the chicken to London.

Mr. Speaker, before concluding—

Mr. Courtemanche: Not yet!

Mr. Denis: —I wish to thank the Conservative government (Applause) for having paid tribute to the Liberal party, and this in the speech from the throne, by commending one of the many measures enacted by the Liberals for the greatest benefit of Canadians.

I quote:

My government will continue to promote a victorious program of house building—

This is important and I beg you to listen to it, Mr. Speaker.

—which has already proven to be a strong feature of our economy and which constitutes the best opportunity for increased work in meeting the needs of our people.

This housing program Mr. Speaker—

—strong feature of our economy—