

Report on Trade by Minister

depend on the actual arrangements to be developed at the UNCTAD and later negotiating meetings.

The four Scandinavian countries represent an important and active group of markets for Canadian exports. It will be recalled that they negotiated collectively in the Kennedy round and participated together in one pavilion at Expo '67. I am convinced that there are important trading and investment opportunities open to Canadian exporters who are prepared to show initiative and energy in developing sales to these affluent and highly competitive markets. Similarly, these countries are looking for a continuation of their growing exports to Canada.

I am instructing the Department of Trade and Commerce to place increased emphasis on the development of the great potential which I am sure exists for Canadian exports to Scandinavia. Relations between Canada and each of these four countries are warm and friendly. Many factors give us a great community of interest and a healthy flow of valued immigrants to our country. These ties are worth the efforts we expend toward their maintenance and strengthening.

The meetings of the GATT and O.E.C.D. in many ways complemented each other. Taken together they constituted major progress in reaching a consensus among member countries about what the next steps should be in trade policy generally, and more particularly the application to the advancement of the developing countries, for whom it was unanimously agreed much more will have to be done.

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition may I welcome the minister back from his extended trip during which he attended important conferences on behalf of the government. We are glad to hear that once again he has urged that serious consideration be given to developing free trade in primary industrial products and that everything possible be done in world trade to eliminate nuisance duties. We are also interested to hear of his new initiatives in attempting to develop additional trade with the Scandinavian countries. The minister has had an excellent opportunity to sell more Canadian products abroad.

I hope that some time soon the minister will divulge to the house any successes he has had, or any efforts he has made, with regard to obtaining additional markets for Canadian wheat. Our wheat sales have fallen

[Mr. Winters.]

off seriously this year, and we realize how important it is to maintain the sales of this important commodity.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I join in welcoming the return of the Minister of Trade and Commerce from his extended trip. In his statement the minister spoke of the general language in which the communiqué was framed and said such language was characteristic of such communiqués. I hope the minister will not mind my saying this, but the same remark could be made about the statement he made. It is in very general language indeed, and does not indicate to us any precise conclusions which may have been arrived at or any precise considerations and problems that were raised.

Naturally everyone in this house is happy to hear that further steps will be taken to liberalize trade, and everyone is happy to hear that the minister is making efforts to increase our trade with the Scandinavian countries and the countries of eastern Europe. Nevertheless I hoped particularly that the minister might say something more concrete with regard to trade with developing countries. As the minister knows, 66 delegations from developing countries met some months ago in Algiers and adopted what is known as the Algiers manifesto. In that manifesto the problems of the developing countries and their needs are carefully and strongly stated.

It is impossible, from what the minister has told us, to comment about conclusions that were reached. I merely emphasize that increasing trade with the developing countries is one of the major needs of our world today. I hope that the developed countries at UNCTAD, in New Delhi next February, will adopt a common position, as the minister's statement says will be the case, and that in their common position the developed countries will determine to be of real assistance to developing countries, instead of being too narrow.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the minister's statement surprises anyone, because it is the continuation of economic procedures followed in the past both by the Conservative government and by the present administration.

It is understood that Canada must increase its exports, but it must be kept in mind, as