

Supply—Finance

that a great number of important American people are in favour of an association between North America and the countries—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): It is not in the interest of Canada or of the commonwealth.

Mr. Chevrier: Well, then listen to this. The suggestion and proposal of a common market were put forward by leading statesmen like Mr. Ludwig Erhard, Mr. Nelson Rockefeller, Mr. Adlai Stevenson, Mr. Kampmann, prime minister of Denmark, ex-secretary of state Dean Acheson, one of the promoters of the Marshall plan and NATO, Mr. Faure, French minister of economic affairs, and the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Mr. Macmillan, during his recent visit in Ottawa.

Of course, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) advocated that idea time and again in this house.

An Atlantic economic community would give real economic meaning to the Atlantic alliance and strengthen its political cohesion where there is very much room for improvement. It would give more strength to free world unity against communist expansion. It would increase our trade with Europe and consequently reduce our dependence on the United States.

And I stop here to say that if the minister maintains his stand, he will have no alternative but to advocate economic union with the United States. But we on this side of the house would object and muster all our efforts against an economic union with the United States which could only lead us to a political union.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Are you still a Liberal? Your policy has changed.

Mr. Chevrier: I am not advocating a new policy; this is the policy of my leader, it is the Liberal policy that I am recalling here, and it is the policy that I would have liked to put on record the other day when I was interrupted by Mr. Speaker, who was obviously acting in accordance with the rules of the house.

Finally, I submit that such a step on our part might solve the difficult problem arising from the relations among the six and the seven, for it would entail, a far-reaching decision.

Mr. Chairman, Canada should take the lead and extend the European accomplishments to the Atlantic area so as to form a larger association, out of the existing groups, by establishing an Atlantic economic committee on which we would sit, and

[Mr. Chevrier.]

we would then take advantage of the economic integration of free trade and of a large competitive market.

This is how we must meet the challenge of the success attained in Europe, that I—

I shall put on our official record a sentence which expressed my thought: "If you can't fight them, then join them".

Then, instead of fighting against this movement, as did the two ministers who represented us over there, it seems that we should have tried another strategy. The situation would be altogether different if a definite policy, that we could have discussed in this house, had been suggested.

I shall close my remarks by saying that we condemn the stand apparently taken by the two ministers and that we—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The stand was not taken by the two ministers and you know it very well.

Mr. Chevrier: I said "apparently taken by the two ministers". And, along with the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. George Hees), as long as you do not produce the statements which you have read and used over there, we on this side of the house, have the right to—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I already said that I had no written statement; there is nothing that I could possibly read.

If the hon. member (Mr. Chevrier) continues to ask me to read a text—

Mr. Chevrier: Well, Mr. Chairman, if it is true that the hon. minister has no text, he could at least write down what he said. But the Minister of Trade and Commerce has a text; let him produce it. He said that he had inadvertently handed it to the reporters over there. I therefore believe that we should see this text, for the newspapers have, apparently, interpreted that text in a manner which was quite unfair to those ministers.

I pity the ministers for the injustice they have to suffer from the press, radio, the Leader of the Opposition and some of my colleagues. What injustice. They always complain when they come back from long trips. I was just about to say: Travellers from afar can lie with impunity, but I will not do so because that would be contrary to the standing orders. Yet, Mr. Chairman, I should like to conclude my remarks—

An hon. Member: Read a text.