



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA TRADES WITH THE WORLD

An address by the Minister of Trade and Commerce,
Mr. C.D. Howe, to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association,
at Montreal, May 25, 1955.

It was four years ago, in June 1951, that I last had the pleasure of addressing an annual meeting of your members. I am happy to be with you once again. I am pleased to see that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association continues to flourish and to play a useful role in the industrial life of our nation.

Your Association has much to contribute to the discussion of national policies. There is need in our society for an organization in which manufacturers can discuss their mutual problems and through which they can make their views known to the Canadian people as a whole. It has seemed to me that your Association is fulfilling these functions more effectively now than at any time in the past, and I would like to pay a special tribute to those public-spirited men who have been prepared to devote their time and talents to work on your executive.

Your annual meeting this year is a particularly fine example of the new spirit and the constructive imagination which seems to animate the Canadian Manufacturers' Association of today. I notice from the latest copy of "Industrial Canada" that you call this the Parliament of Canadian Industry. Since I am a member of the Parliament that is now meeting in Ottawa, I ought to feel right at home among you. However, there are some differences. As I speak, I see before me a large group of more or less smiling faces. If I were in the House of Commons in Ottawa, I would be confronted with members of the Opposition, very friendly people, of course, -- but just waiting for an opportunity of replying to my speech. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that the rules in this Parliament will allow me the rare privilege of delivering a speech without hearing it torn apart a few minutes later.

Your Association is to be commended particularly for devoting a full day to the discussion of trade and economic progress. I understand that this discussion begins tomorrow with the theme "More Trade - the Fulcrum of Economic Progress". As an engineer, I am a bit dubious about the terminology. I look upon our trade, not as the passive force at the fulcrum but as the very active force at the end of the lever. From there its influence is multiplied in being transmitted to the rest of the economy.

But, while the simile may not be altogether accurate, everyone, I am sure, knows what you are driving at. As Minister of Trade and Commerce, I am particularly gratified that the importance of trade is accepted as a fact. To me, it is highly significant of the thinking of Canadian manufacturers in this day and age that this Association should devote a day to discussing the advantages to Canadians generally, and to Canadian industry in particular, of a prosperous, expanding world trade. It makes my job of promoting trade much easier when I know that I have the strong support of this important segment of Canadian business.