

Supply—External Affairs

tary economies, such as we find existing between ourselves and the West Indies, trade should not be a one way street.

The Caribbean is one of those fortunate, or unfortunate regions, depending where you sit, which has a surplus population. Like all such areas, they recognize the need to industrialize if they are to raise the standards of living of their people. But as is also common, there is a shortage of capital. Hence we see the need for a development fund. As is common with many other areas, and in spite of surplus population, there is a shortage of manual labour in agriculture. This is understandable, as many people do not like to do the hard physical labour involved in basic agriculture. The Barbados are a case in point. There they have 8 to 10 per cent unemployed but find it difficult to get the sugar cane reaped. Other islands such as Saint Kitts, Antigua and the United States Virgin Islands have the same difficulty.

The West Indies are partners in the commonwealth, but do we remember or know this? Mr. Errol Barrow, the premier of Barbados, as reported in the *International Journal* for the spring of 1964, made some very scathing comments about the relations between the Canadian government and his government. I was going to quote some of his comments, but in the interests of facilitating this debate, I will refrain from doing so. He did however criticize bitterly, and I intend to show that this criticism was somewhat unjustified. To do so I should like to quote from the House of Commons external affairs report of 1963, which deals at some length with what the Conservative government did to assist the West Indies. It also gives some conclusive answers to the rather bitter partisan questions and statements which were made in this house in July. That report states in part:

In 1958 the Canadian government announced that it wished to assist the West Indies federation in its economic development efforts and that accordingly it was prepared to grant, subject to parliamentary approval, a total of \$10 million over a five year period commencing in the fiscal year 1958-59. This program continued even after the dissolution of the federation but obviously some changes had to be made in it. With the separate independence of Jamaica and Trinidad in 1962, Canadian diplomatic missions were established on these islands and assistance was carried on through bilateral negotiations. In 1961 Canada joined with the United States and Britain in carrying out an economic survey of the smaller territories and as a result of this survey Canada accepted certain projects to be carried out in these islands under its West Indies program.

The original undertaking of a \$10 million five year program expired on March 31, 1963. In advance of this date the government agreed that

Canadian aid to the West Indies area should continue into 1963-64 and should be maintained at the same average level as in recent years. This meant a sum of \$2 million for 1963-64. At the same time, the government also agreed that British Honduras and British Guiana, which had formerly been receiving about \$100,000 worth of annual assistance under a separate program for other commonwealth countries, should be brought into the general Caribbean scheme. Accordingly the cabinet decision of November, 1962, was that Canadian aid to commonwealth countries and territories of the Caribbean area should be maintained in 1963-64 at a level of \$2.1 million.

Capital assistance was extended for some eight special items ranging from \$5,866,000 for two ships down to \$400,000 for drilling and developing of fresh water wells and so on. I continue the quotation:

In addition to the above described project assistance, Canada has provided substantial amounts of technical assistance. Sixty West Indian students received training in Canada and 43 Canadian advisers or teachers served in the West Indies to the end of March 31, 1963.

From this it can be seen that starting in 1958 under a Conservative government the West Indies were given substantial assistance in very many ways. I should also like to emphasize again that it is my opinion that immigration policy should be extended in this area, as I pointed out in a speech I made in the house on September 25 of this year.

Mr. Smallwood: Mr. Chairman, I do not like to take too much of the minister's time. I have known him ever since I entered parliament. I have watched him operate as a politician when he was in the opposition and I appreciated his ability when one of our ministers at that time was a little vague in his answers. I recall the tantrums he would work himself into in those days in trying to get an answer. Those were the days when he was looking forward to leading the great Liberal party.

But now the shoe is on the other foot. My good friend is on the other side of the house and I am over here. Now I am trying to get some information from him. He is still looking forward to leading that great party, although he has difficulty with the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Minister of National Defence and possibly the hon. member for Lotbinière.

The minister was a little vague when I asked him a question regarding the trip to Africa of the member of the Liberal government without portfolio from Red Deer, and wanted to know why they sent Bongo Bob to the Congo. I wanted to find out from the minister how the expenses of the member for Red Deer were going to be paid and whether