

done, to the splendid contribution which the Speaker of this house, the Honourable Wishart Robertson, has made to this organization, and in particular to the effort towards economic development within its framework. That policy has not yet borne the fruit that was hoped for, but let us keep on working and hoping in that direction. It is very gratifying to us to find that our Speaker has been made Honorary President of the Conference of NATO Parliamentarians.

It was of great interest to those of us who are members of the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association, to have had recently the opportunity of meeting Mr. Wayne Hays of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the Conference of NATO Parliamentarians. He gave us a very informative address on the work of that organization, which enlightened us on the co-operation that comes from him and others in their official capacities in the United States.

Our colleague Senator Cameron gave us the other day a splendid description of the UNESCO Conference held in New Delhi quite recently, which was attended by delegates from 79 nations. It was most interesting that he was able to state with such feeling and sincerity that Canadians, wherever they went on that trip and throughout the conference, received a very hearty welcome. As he stated, he and the others representing Canada had the thought conveyed to them generally that Canada is not a nation which in those affairs is trying to get anything from anybody, but is recognized as bringing to these councils in the international field a completely objective and honest consideration. I feel, honourable senators, that Senator Cameron in bringing such a message to us from that far eastern conference has told us something of which Canadians can be justly proud.

I would like now to direct your attention to certain matters of local significance, some of which have a direct application to the Atlantic provinces, and to Newfoundland in particular.

There are certain aspects of the interim report of the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects which I will refer to at this time. Immediately the report came out it drew dominion-wide attention through the press and radio such as is not usually given to royal commission reports.

It should be borne in mind in these discussions that the report is a preliminary one and that the commission's final submissions will no doubt include much information which will assist in the interpretation of their first presentation. I am sure that the members of this commission, of which Mr. W. E. Gordon is

chairman, are recognized as men of outstanding ability and with very widespread interests throughout the dominion. From the point of view of personnel, the selection of this board unquestionably meets with national approval.

In reviewing the various sections of their submission, I found myself referring back to their terms of reference and wondering at times why they were making specific recommendations as to policy, inasmuch as they are really a body set up to study conditions as they are and can be foreseen, and to anticipate the economic prospects of Canada over the next 25 years.

It is singular also that of the ten provinces of Canada they should group four together—the Atlantic provinces—and treat them as a unit in the matter of reporting on and making recommendations with respect to them, notwithstanding their varied conditions.

My understanding, and I think the general thought of the public is that this commission was set up to provide facts and to anticipate trends on which national policy as formulated by Governments in the future may be influenced. In other words, it was supposed to provide a foundation of facts on which to base consideration of future policy in every part of Canada. I feel they were unwise in making specific recommendations as to policy in certain fields, because I do not think they had the organization or time or opportunity to make the comprehensive study that would be a requisite preliminary to some of these definite recommendations.

I do feel, however, that their reference to the advisability of the Government of Canada giving assistance to the residents of the four Atlantic provinces who may wish to leave those provinces, owing to lack of employment opportunities, has been over-publicized and taken a bit out of its context. It is hard, nevertheless, to reconcile oneself to an aggressive future policy in any part of Canada which sets forth the need for supplying money to assist people to get out of those parts. However, I know that extreme views have been taken on that one point. It has given rise unnecessarily, I think, to a reaction and probably has not done any good at the moment. While I am a little surprised that that reference was made in the preliminary report, which the commission must have considered in a sort of casual and easygoing way, I am still not inclined to go along with some of the extreme views that have been expressed. A few evenings ago I was listening to a group of men, none of whom I was acquainted with, who were discussing that very point. They had been reading what was in the newspapers and