

*The Address—Mr. A. Smith*

common market. I suggest, sir, that we really could not expect that any member of government would not press for all the advantages to be gained by Canada in any of these deliberations. Is it not equally true that representatives of the other commonwealth countries who occupy the same position as our Minister of Finance took exactly the same line of argument on behalf of their countries at this conference?

The Leader of the Opposition criticizes the forceful way in which the Minister of Finance took up the question of Britain's entry into the common market; not opposed to it, but hoping it would take into consideration all the factors that involve this country. What do other Canadians think of this attitude? One can draw opinions from many sources. I should first like to refer to an important quotation from a very responsible body of Canadians who are vitally important to our community. I refer to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, who in one of their publications say this:

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association believe that the position taken by the Canadian government will be helpful in strengthening Britain's position in these negotiations. Canada, after all, in common with the other commonwealth countries, can hardly be blamed for making the most strenuous efforts to maintain as far as possible that preferential access to the British market which she has so long enjoyed.

Of course this is a position which Canadians must take in the interests of the development of the prosperity of their own country. What about the attitude of the world abroad toward this country? It is hard to evaluate any evidence in support of the position we have taken in the international community, but naturally as a country grows up and assumes more responsibility it is bound to run into divergent views. We do not disagree in international matters for the sake of disagreement but, as we become increasingly active in the world community, we are bound to encounter different points of view.

Nevertheless we have accomplished a great deal during these past five years, and I think it worth while to place on record some of the things which have been achieved under the guidance of the present Secretary of State for External Affairs. Certainly we can say that under his direction Canada was fortunate in being recognized as one of the vice presidents of the United Nations during the past year. It is well to remember that this international forum is a far more competitive body today than it was in the days when the present Leader of the Opposition was so closely associated with it. At that time there were some 55 member nations, compared with 104 who now occupy seats in that chamber.

There are many more achievements which could be listed. Mr. Marcel Cadieux has been elected a member of the international law commission by the general assembly. We are one of three western countries represented on the committee for the Congo and, of course, we have troops in that country, and have participated in all military actions when invited by the United Nations. We have played an important part in the work of the committee on outer space. We have been one of the principal supporters of the issuance of bonds to support the United Nations. The same comment applies to the project for a food bank. Canada played a role of first importance in the promotion of the resolution regarding radioactive fallout. We were co-sponsors of a resolution asking the Soviet union not to explode the 50 megaton bomb, a resolution which received the support of 87 nations. We were members of the committee of 10 on disarmament and we are members of the present committee of 15 nations. We have established close relations with the new African states, particularly with the French-speaking states, and so on. There are two and a half pages of accomplishments listed here, and I think the house should be made aware of these factors. I ask you, then, does this look like a record of a country which is losing prestige abroad.

In addition to this contribution let me say, as one who has been privileged to sit through three general assemblies, that there was never a day when delegations from other countries did not come to ask us for help or co-operation in connection with resolutions which were to come before the United Nations body as a whole. In the course of the opportunity I have had to visit some 14 countries this year I saw evidence of the respect held for this country, offered to me not as an individual but as a representative of Canada. What does concern me, however, is that for so long Canadians have counted themselves as poor relations to other countries. We have no reason to adopt such an attitude, because our record is one of considerable achievement. That an hon. gentleman with such a responsible task as the Leader of the Opposition should try to drag down the position we occupy abroad is, to my mind, one of the most retrograde steps that could be taken, and I suggest the hon. gentleman has done a great disservice to this country as a whole.

I turn now to another aspect of this subject. I do not propose to look to the past any more, but to look ahead. I think it is important to remind one another as we may shortly enter a new election and a new parliament that we should try to assess what has to be accomplished in the years ahead. I do not contend that it is the responsibility of this