

negligible; they were flying in Government planes and being entertained at the other end. Yet we have a committee of this house concerned with trade. Every year groups visit the United States. As far as I know, they have a very good time down there; they must know something about trade. Yet not one of us was asked to go along to see if he could help in any way.

Recently a governmental party visited India, parliament to parliament. Civil servants went along, but no one from the Senate was invited. Thirty-two people went to the Commonwealth Conference from Canada, but not a member of the Senate was invited. Yet the staunchest supporters of the Commonwealth sit here in the Senate, and the Commonwealth needs friends.

On three occasions I have attended functions at the home of one of the senators in Toronto when he was host to Commonwealth delegates. Not too many of the senators or members of the other place who were invited attended, but the host constantly devoted himself to this task.

There are many parliamentary delegations, and it is becoming a little repetitious to see the same people go along as delegates from time to time. If a man is an officer of one of these parliamentary groups then, of course, he must go. If he is likely to be an officer, then he should go. But the opportunity ought to be passed around. There is no difficulty in taking a new man and giving him a course lasting a week or two in order that he may grasp the fine points. When he goes he acquires a certain amount of knowledge. I think if he is able to get into the Senate, then he is able to go as a member of these parliamentary delegations.

Honourable senators, I am not asking for the opportunity. The former Senator Ross Macdonald offered me any number of opportunities of going with these delegations, as did Senator John Connolly. I did go to the United Nations as a delegate during the Suez crisis, and two or three years ago I went with Senator Macnaughton to Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Since I have been in the Senate my luck has been such that I cannot go on these jour-

neys because I have always been pregnant with committee. I suggest, first of all, that we create a committee, and then I stand around while we nourish it on its way. Then it is born and carries on its work which it completes with a report, and I present the report to the house. I give it its baptism. Then the whole process repeats itself and, believe me, this has been a very confining business. Now I am at it again. In a few days we in the Poverty Committee will be tying ourselves up for a year or so on a matter of vital importance.

When we discuss these matters in the Senate we must not be timid and we must not go on our knees. We are either doing our task or we are not. The ability of a nation to meet the challenges of these troubled days depends upon the leadership of those who place their talents and energies at the service of their country. When we in the Senate are entrusted with high responsibility and authority we should expect compensation comparable to that which we would receive in private life. We, with the members of the House of Commons, are grossly underpaid. The increase that we received in 1963 has long been exhausted and wiped out. I am not speaking from self pity. It is time that the Canadian people faced all the facts.

I object to the report because it speaks on matters of importance in muted tones. It is almost a whispering-willie when, at this time, we need to talk in a loud voice so that we can be heard. We need to discuss our problems among ourselves, and we should not lose any time in doing so. It is time that others said what they have in mind. As I said to my honourable friend, we have to say it, and repeat it over and over again, for repetition is the conveyor belt of politics. If we cannot arrange a meaningful dialogue with the Government of the day, then it is curtains. We shall have no one to blame but ourselves.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: Hear, hear.

On motion of Hon. Mr. McGrand, debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until Thursday, January 30, at 3 p.m.