

Parkinson's Law in operation (although that seems to be a phenomenon present in some degree wherever governments are involved!), but rather a response to the urgent need to bring about a more rational distribution of the world's economic resources to meet the demands of steeply rising populations seeking ever higher standards of living. It is upon a wise use of the international economic machinery that has developed, that much of our hope of achieving a saner and more prosperous world will depend.

Let us glance briefly at some of the more important international arrangements to which Canada is a party. On the widest plane we have the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade--better known as the GATT -- which commits its signatories to the most liberal (with a small "l") of trading policies -- that is, to expanding trade and economic development on a worldwide scale by means of the lowering of tariffs and the removal of restrictive barriers. The significance of GATT lies in the fact that its 37 member states between them conduct some 80 per cent of the world's trade, and the reductions and bindings of tariff levels regulated under the Agreement affect some 50 per cent of the trade of the signatories. The Agreement has provided the apparatus by which four rounds of general tariff negotiations have taken place at which substantial reductions and bindings have been effected. This is a most significant contribution to the freeing of world trade.

Of a global nature, there is the wide range of machinery and institutions set up under United Nations auspices for the harmonization of international standards and for the expansion of co-operation at the technical level. They include the Food and Agricultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, (with its headquarters in Montreal), the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, to mention only a few. Canada is an active participant in them all. We have also supported efforts both within and outside the United Nations framework to devise solutions to problems of commodity trade. Thus Canada is a member of all the existing international commodity agreements on wheat, sugar and tin, and participates in the work of a number of study groups in other commodities. The value of this commodity by commodity approach, which attempts to consider and to ameliorate the conditions of trade in terms of the problems peculiar to each commodity, was reiterated at the Commonwealth Economic Conference as a means of mitigating the abrupt and short-term fluctuations in world commodity prices.

That Conference, which, as you know, took place last September in Montreal, was itself a most successful example of what can be achieved when a group of like-minded nations come together to expand their trade by all practicable means. Although the immediate objective was the expansion of Commonwealth trade, the participants declared their firm belief that Commonwealth countries should co-operate