

Supply—Trade and Commerce

process of questions and answers on orders of the day. This subject is too large, perhaps, to be dealt with properly on orders of the day. There is a great desire to obtain that information.

I would ask him if he would consider working out a precise statement on this subject and putting it on the record during the consideration of these estimates, so we could have it as an authoritative statement as of this date. In this statement I would hope he would clarify the confusion that now exists in connection with Canadian subsidiaries of United States owned companies. The apparent conflict arises because these subsidiaries are subject to Canadian law, but at the same time the United States owners may be subject to United States law. I am aware of the fact it is a subject of some difficulty, but I believe it is a subject on which we should have a precise statement.

On the subject of trade with China, I read with some interest Mr. Forsyth-Smith's article in the publication *Foreign Trade*. It was a very good article, as far as it went. In view of the minister's statement today about the willingness of Canadian exporters to go abroad in an effort to sell products, and his own interest and statements along that line, would he say whether or not he has in immediate prospect any trade trip to China? There was a small item about that in the newspaper the other day, with which I think he is familiar, indicating that he was going. However, it seemed to me to be one of those vague items that left one in considerable doubt as to whether he was or was not going. I hope he will clear up that point.

I was not quite clear as to the position of our trade commissioners in China. Have we a trade commissioner now in China?

Mr. Churchill: Just in Hong Kong.

Mr. Pearson: Does he cover China?

Mr. McIlraith: What is his exact position?

Mr. Churchill: We have a trade commissioner stationed in Hong Kong, Mr. Forsyth-Smith. He spent two weeks in China last fall on invitation of the Chinese government.

Mr. McIlraith: Does his territory cover Hong Kong?

Mr. Churchill: His territory covers Hong Kong and adjacent countries.

Mr. McIlraith: Does it include China?

Mr. Churchill: Yes.

Mr. McIlraith: As the minister correctly expected, I have a considerable interest in the subject of trade with the West Indies. As he will have noticed, there is a resolution on the order paper standing in my name which

[Mr. McIlraith.]

deals with the subject of trade with the West Indies. It is not my purpose to elaborate it here, particularly, because I expect that on Monday, or one of the Mondays very shortly, we shall have an opportunity of debating that subject in a specific way. While this will not give an opportunity to ask questions, my remarks could probably be more properly left until that stage.

There is one aspect of this matter, however, arising out of the minister's statement, with which I should like to deal now. He spoke about the importance of this market and the growth of the trade with the West Indies over the last number of years. It has a historic background, and it has a tremendous importance to an area of this country, which I think I can say with propriety needs help in its development at this time to a degree that is equal to or greater than the need of any other part of this country. I refer, of course, to the maritimes.

The Deputy Chairman: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Mr. Herridge: I listened with great interest to the minister's recitation of the activities of his department, the first he has made since he has taken office. While a great deal of what he had to say was informative, I must frankly say it was not inspiring. You know, Mr. Chairman, the minister does not talk like a salesman. I could not imagine anyone selling very much with the minister's approach to this question. He reminded me of the old-fashioned storekeeper who used to sit on an apple box and say, "Come and get it." I was reminded also of an early schoolmaster of mine, nearly 60 years ago, who used to lecture on history. I thought the minister gave us a good lecture on history this afternoon, but I do not think there was very much insight into the future. He did not sound much like a prophet.

I was interested in his reference to trade with the United Kingdom, the European common market, trade with Japan, Latin America and the possibility of developing further trade in the British West Indies. I was interested, too, in his brief and somewhat noncommittal statement with respect to China. The minister stated the trade commissioner learned last fall that the Chinese people were interested in trading with Canada, and in purchasing some of the commodities we have for sale in the export market. I was amazed to hear him say that. You know, Mr. Chairman, we in this group have been trying to tell governments that for five years. The minister has sent a trade commissioner into China surreptitiously, up the