

prevailing circumstances.

Professor Peyton Lyon, Carleton University, wrote in Commentator, January 1969:

"The Prime Minister's reluctance to join the Organization of American States (OAS) is considered sensible, but not his stated reason, which is that Canada should first work out a distinctive attitude towards Latin America to avoid appearing as an echo of the United States. This overlooks the fact that Canada has already expressed a quite different attitude, especially on Cuba, the hottest issue in hemispheric affairs, and that foreign observers have congratulated us for that very reason on our good fortune in not being a member of the OAS...Mr. Trudeau, however, appears to want to wait, until the divergence (between Ottawa and Washington) is much greater - and also the corresponding diplomatic cost - before occupying the seat reserved for Canada".

Early in February 1969 the Secretary General of the OAS visited Ottawa and gave the Secretary of State for External Affairs a "legal view" of how Canada's relations with Cuba would be affected if it were to join the OAS. The visit prompted the Toronto Star (February 6, 1969) to express the opinion that "Canada would be under pressure to break diplomatic relations with Cuba if it joined the OAS", and the Montreal Star on the same day to declare that "Canada would not likely be required to break relations with Cuba if she joined the OAS". A more vigorously expressed comment was contained in a telegram to the Minister from Courtenay, B.C.:

"More facts more protests if Canada is made another non-voting member of OAS".

In the House of Commons, R. Gordon L. Fairweather asked on March 3, 1969, that the House be given an opportunity to discuss