

after this expansion indicates that if External Affairs officers had proposed the office, it would have been tied into a prior and more general review of consular matters. Since Trade and Commerce were administering the post, External Affairs acquiesced in the Trade and Commerce decision, and thereafter regarded New Orleans as a trade office.¹¹⁹

Although the office had been set up as a consulate, agitation to raise its status began almost immediately. Hector Allard, while on the eastern lap of his 1952 tour, suggested that a consulate general was appropriate since all other major nations in New Orleans maintained offices of that status. In June 1953, W.F. Bull of the Department of Trade and Commerce told an interdepartmental meeting that "...the position of these two senior officers (the heads of post in New Orleans and Detroit) was made somewhat uncomfortable by the fact that their posts are the only ones in the United States not ranked as Consulates General." Americans doing business with these two consulates often believed this inferior designation hinted at officials of minor importance.¹²¹

A memorandum was subsequently prepared and passed on by both the Establishments and Organization Division and the Consular Division asking for the approval of the Minister for the proposal. The Ambassador wrote on April 30, 1954, to ask that both Detroit and New Orleans be made consulates general, but the matter had been complicated by the extension of the Heads of Posts regulations to Consuls General. Action was then delayed while Trade and Commerce considered the financial difficulties that this might cause. Since External was willing to allow Mr. Newman to have the title, but could not at that time provide the perquisites of a consul general, Mr. English of the Trade Commissioner Service eventually accepted that offer. The memorandum to this effect was sent to Mr. Mackay, Assistant Under-Secretary, August 16, 1954.¹²²