

freedom since the end of World War II. While they intend to retain that freedom, they are even more determined to raise their level of living, with more to eat, more to wear, and better houses in which to live.

The gap between the developed and the less developed countries hits close to home in the case of Latin America. Frank Tannenbaum, professor of Latin American history at Columbia University, says in a recent article entitled *The United States and Latin America—The Sins of the Fathers*:

Stated simply, the task we face in Latin America can be put in a single question. What can the United States do to help bridge the gap that lies between a \$2,500 average annual income in North America and the \$200 average income in Latin America? * * * The difference in income is so wide that, until it is narrowed, we cannot expect the people of those countries to identify themselves with our aspirations, projects, or policies.

Let us look at some of the things that the United States has done which have the effect of curtailing the markets for Latin American products, thus reducing their income and widening the gap between the rich and poor countries. At the behest of politically powerful minority groups in this country the Government has instituted import quotas on lead, zinc, and petroleum. For many years there have been import quotas on sugar and other agricultural commodities. There is an export subsidy on the export of our cotton. All of these things are produced in Latin America.

So long as there is great disparity in living standards between the industrial and the contested countries, today's rapidly shrinking world will not be a peaceful place in which to live. The economic gap between the two groups of countries is now widening. The gap must be narrowed. Otherwise, permanent world peace is an illusion. The gap can be narrowed while raising the living standards of both groups.

But time is running out.

Almost precisely 99 years ago, on December 1, 1862, Abraham Lincoln said in a message to Congress:

The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion * * * we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves and then we shall save our country.

The Trade Agreements Act as it stands today is hopelessly inadequate to meet conditions as they are and as we can see them developing.