

International Relations
BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Broadbent:

That this House expresses its continuing concern with respect to Canada's international relations and calls on the government to demonstrate a meaningful interest in South and Central America and, in particular, to initiate steps aimed at establishing a negotiated settlement of the tragic civil war in El Salvador.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Maurice Dupras (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, just like my colleagues who spoke before me, it gives me great pleasure to take part in this debate on the North-South dialogue, the relations that we could establish in Latin America and the Caribbean, and finally the tragic events in El Salvador.

As concerns the last element of this motion, the tragedy in El Salvador, I have listened very carefully to the Leader of the New Democratic Party, and this has led me to realize that my own sources of information, since I had the advantage of spending about ten days in El Salvador, did not correspond with his own. There are contradictions in many areas, especially as concerns arms deliveries. I have always believed, Mr. Speaker, that a conflict always involves two elements and that it was impossible to start a conflict unilaterally.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the comments made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who made a few corrections as concerns the Canadian position, and as mentioned by my colleague for Gloucester (Mr. Breau), this was certainly a good opportunity to urge the United States once again not to interfere in an increasingly unfortunate situation, which I would not want to exploit more than need be.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly want to speak about the experience of the task force on North-South relations and about that part of the motion which concerns our relations with Latin America. The task force report has been very well received everywhere. The Canadian government tabled yesterday its response to approve it, and it is reassuring to know that the efforts of a number of members of the House have been appreciated and I think that this will help other *ad hoc* committees to develop some credibility for the research work to which we have committed ourselves. The substance of the task force report will lend weight to the initiatives and the efforts that the Canadian government and the Prime Minister himself have made these last few months to give Canadians and the heads of states who will be here in July an increased awareness of some of the problems of the developing countries.

Mr. Speaker, the task force does not pretend to have covered all aspects of international development. Of course, we did examine certain important aspects, we discussed them, and my colleague for Gloucester, the chairman of the task force, has already talked about them. There are also certain very important elements with which we unfortunately did not have time to deal. Among those, I would like to mention the outflow of

expertise, the brain drain as it is usually called, which is causing more and more problems for developing countries when young people who have received some type of training which could help their own country decide to remain in the country where they have been trained. I have found that the Canadian government is often blamed for having kept these new talents, and I believe that this is an unfair judgment since it is up to the country of origin to see to it that if these young people really want to work for the economic development of their country, they return urgently to their country to make their contribution. This is an aspect of development which is enormously costly for developing countries.

Mr. Speaker, there is another problem related to this one, namely the increase in administration and registration fees that Canadian universities must charge foreign students. I believe that this is unfair for those countries which depend on Canada to give adequate training to their young people. I think that this is a marvelous opportunity for us to develop and train in Canada the future leaders of developing countries. Those people will be allies of Canada in 10 or 15 years; they will be the decision-makers, the leaders of their societies who, quite naturally, could be favourably disposed towards Canada if they have studied here. I think it is most unfortunate that an increase in tuition fees should have been imposed on foreign students.

● (2120)

A closer look at North-South relations has also given to most of the members of the committee the opportunity of finding out through our travels that the Canadian International Development Agency and the International Development Research Centre enjoy considerable prestige throughout the world, and just how happy people are to welcome Canadian parliamentarians who are concerned with the problems of the developing world, because of the high calibre of the representatives of those two Canadian institutions, the work those two institutions have achieved and the help they have given developing countries. I was particularly impressed with the work done in the Philippines and Bangladesh.

I believe that one of the recommendations of the task force was that more funds be set aside for the International Development Research Centre. I suggest that it ought to be done without delay since that is not the type of assistance which developing nations find hard to accept. Indeed it is not simply a handout but rather technological aid to help developing countries raise the level of the technology they need so badly for instance, to boost rice and wheat production, to launch a food growing industry, to devise ways of conserving and storing foodstuffs and process them so they will produce more food for their people.

Mr. Speaker, there is another topic on which we did not have enough time to dwell, and I refer to the policy concerning multinational undertakings. A number of the most pressing