

*External Aid*

A year ago in Fredericton, at the campus of the University of New Brunswick, I heard Senator Robert Kennedy say this to the graduates:

You come from a nation whose Prime Minister holds a Nobel prize for his work in bringing peace to a war-ravaged land; a nation whose work abroad has been a living testament to man's longing for peace; a land whose people have put their energy and their wisdom to the task of a world in which human freedom is enlarged, and peace preserved. Now you must turn to the work of building a newer world—

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this government must turn toward this end too. I continue:

—a world which will be better for the work that you do. And this you must do.

As a final sentence may I tell the house of something that an old philosopher friend of mine, Albert Camus, a dangerous, rebellious, revolutionary Frenchman who won the Nobel prize, wrote not many years ago:

• (4:30 p.m.)

Perhaps we cannot prevent this world being a world in which children suffer but we can lessen the number of suffering children, and if you do not help us do this, who will do it?

If we cannot believe this, Mr. Speaker, what can we believe?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I regard this as the most solemn debate in which I have ever taken part in this house. I think back a few weeks ago, and as we debate I cannot but picture the vultures of death swooping overhead in Biafra. I hasten to lend all my support to the amendment moved by the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather) and to his words. I take it as a privilege to be allowed to second his amendment. I am indeed proud to associate myself with his words of condemnation of the fumbling, inadequate response of the government to this greatest of tragedies.

I want to discuss the report of the committee. This report contains certain recommendations which we in this party support. I particularly wish to call attention to the eighth recommendation of the committee which proposes that the Canadian government should continue and intensify its efforts by negotiation through all possible channels, including the Commonwealth, the Organization of African Unity and interested governments, to persuade the contending parties to accept further mediation.

[Mr. Fairweather.]

I see that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is not here now, but the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) is here and I want to make a suggestion which I think he will find is a practical one. I urge upon the government the importance of taking concrete steps through the third committee of the United Nations or outside it, if necessary, to set up an international conciliation team.

Such a team could consist of persons appointed by the heads of state of five nations of which Canada could well be one. I think we should propose that some eminent constitutional lawyer such as Professor Frank R. Scott, formerly dean of the law department of McGill, or Professor Ivan Head, who is on the Prime Minister's own staff, or Professor Ronald MacDonald, Dean of the University of Toronto law school, whose name has already been mentioned during this debate, be called upon to serve—the Prime Minister himself being presumably unavailable. Any of these men, experienced in world affairs and knowledgeable in the field of international law, could be of great assistance to the parties involved; their integrity and impartiality would be beyond question.

Other countries should be represented. I suggest there should be three representatives from African countries: one, perhaps, from Tanzania or Zambia which have recognized the Biafran régime, and two appointed by the Organization of African Unity. This would mean that the majority of the members of this conciliation team would be Africans, as is appropriate. The fifth representative could be appointed by the government of Sweden, and in this connection one thinks of such distinguished names as that of Gunnar Myrdal. I am not proposing that this team should have binding powers, but the governments of Nigeria and Biafra could be asked to give every possible co-operation so that the extensive differences between the parties might be explored and suggestions as to the resolution of the problem made to both sides.

I am well aware that efforts toward conciliation made by Arnold Smith, the Canadian secretary-general of the Commonwealth, and through the Organization of African Unity under the leadership of Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, have failed to reconcile the parties. Today, however, when it is apparent that there is not to be an early end to the war, there is always the possibility that both parties will be ready to accept conciliation. The alternative is too horrible to contemplate—the death by starvation of literally millions of people, many of them women and