

point raised is legitimate. My only point is that I do not think the committee went far enough. It limited itself to the humanitarian aspect of the matter and did not emphasize, as it ought to have done, what we must do to bring a solution to the problem on the political and military side. The amendment that was moved by the member for Fundy-Royal is an attempt to strengthen the report, which by itself is inadequate.

Some years ago when India and Pakistan were at war—and it was a war—the matter was brought to a conclusion after those who were shipping arms decided they would stop shipping arms. In the matter of Nigeria I think Canada ought to exert greater pressure or influence on Great Britain, Russia, France or Portugal to stop the shipping of arms on both sides. I think our influence ought to be used in that direction, and I am certain that world opinion would be behind us.

Also we need to bring pressure to bear on the commonwealth. I am sure that nations in the commonwealth, particularly those in Africa, feel that they ought to take a greater lead in this matter than they have taken so far. Some say that this is hopeless if the members of the organization for African unity could not agree on the course to take. Twenty nine members gave support to the military government of Nigeria and four members support the Biafran secessionists. If the commonwealth secretariat has the influence I think it has, it will ultimately be able to do more than we in Canada alone can do. We ought to try to convince the secretariat to act.

Mr. Sharp: We are working on that.

Mr. Thompson (Red Deer): Some say that the United Nations had no business in the Congo or in Korea. The fact is that the United Nations refused to act in these matters until a consensus had been reached to act. In the case of Korea the United States went in with other U.N. members. The point is that in these matters the policy of the United Nations resulted in action. Where the results have been good, credit has been reflected on the U.N., but where there has been a failure, the failure has been not only that of the U.N. itself but of the member nations of the U.N.

An hon. Member: The same as Czechoslovakia.

Mr. Thompson (Red Deer): That is entirely different. The difference between the situations in Czechoslovakia and Nigeria-Biafra is the difference between black and white.

External Aid

In closing may I say that I think we in Canada ought to be doing far more than we are doing, and the government of Canada ought to be more positive in trying to end the war. We must help in a humanitarian way, and at the same time seek a way to end the military war. If we can mobilize world opinion and influence the nations of the world to act with us to end this tragedy I think we shall have done a service to humanity—and made a contribution to world peace. Many Canadians feel that our efforts should be in this direction. If we cannot do that, then I ask: What hope is there for peace in the world?

May I call it seven o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired.

It being seven o'clock I do now leave the chair.

At seven o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Ralph W. Stewart (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, since the committee on external affairs and national defence began its hearings into the question of Nigeria and Biafra I made it a point in the committee to emphasize that we had to review all sides of the matter in order to arrive at a complete and unbiased opinion. From the very beginning of the hearings it was evident that opinions up to that point were not unbiased. We had reports from the Biafran side and we had reports from the federal side. Yet we had never had a report that covered completely both sides of the war. That is why in the committee I recommended that a group of the committee should go to Africa and view this problem from all sides.

I had the good fortune to go to Nigeria and Biafra and to spend approximately two weeks in Africa. I did not want to go to one side alone but insisted on going to the federal side as well. I did not want to come away with a one sided view and a biased opinion.

No doubt the situation in Biafra is sad. It is the kind of thing that tears at your emotions. I am not ashamed to say I cried in Biafra. I cried when a little boy came to me and threw his arms around me and wanted to stay with me. I could feel his little ribs sticking out. I