

Bretton Woods Agreements Act

It is interesting that we should constantly remind ourselves that the poor, wherever they are, are not poor because they want to be poor. If you happen to be born in Somalia, Cambodia or in one of the Central American countries, and you look like this and you speak like this, being a little different from us, you are not in financial and social straits because you want to be but because, with the breaks of the so-called game I have been talking about, your particular part of the world did not reach the level of development where the human element was constantly considered. I believe this is something we have to take very seriously to heart as we look at the whole question in this bill before us today regarding the international monetary fund and how it will effect the lives of the poor people.

I think it is important that we look at this bill in the context of why it is so difficult for this to be a popular idea; popular in the sense that we are willing to try to solve the world's difficulties with will, desire, hope and joy. Why is that? Perhaps it is because the problem has become so great that we are very happy as Canadians to recall our own serious problems. I believe it is more difficult in this country of ours today to approach this problem than it was five years ago. Certainly it is more difficult than it was ten years ago. Perhaps I am afraid, perhaps other members are afraid, but generally people are afraid to face what is going on outside. I can understand that because it is a fearful idea.

● (1500)

I should like to relate another little story concerning how I see the particular situation that is happening in Canada. As Canadians we are one of the most privileged people on the face of the earth. It is simply a fact. It is partly due to our history and a lot of things with which we did not have anything to do.

Mr. Whelan: Partly it is due to the Liberal government.

Mr. Ogle: Very little of it is due to the Liberal government. However, our problems may be coming from that source. We live on one of the great parts of the world's surface. We have natural resources to no end in the ground, on top of the ground, and everywhere. There is still a small population related to our resources. People came to our country, brought great talents and all things necessary to put together a homogeneous group of people. Nevertheless, they cannot sing "O Canada" as a group very well.

We have a lot of privileges. I have never seen a single person die of starvation in this country. I have never seen a dead person as a result of starvation. There have been some, but I have never seen one. I have seen thousands of people dead from starvation in other parts of the world. They did not want to die like that. It was not their basic fault that they died like that. We have privileges, but somehow or other we have to relate to those people. As I said just a moment ago, I should like to relate just a little example.

The planet and all that is involved in its life is going at a speed which we have never experienced before. I will explain that in just a moment. Right now Canadians are something

like a family inside a stateroom on a sinking ship. The family is arguing about who is going to sleep where, who is going to get up first and who is going to get breakfast. They are wondering about all the important things which keep a family alive. But outside the ship has hit an iceberg. It is the *Titanic* and it is on the way down, unless something drastic is done quickly. The only way this family will become aware of what is taking place outside is by opening the door to the stateroom. When they open the stateroom door, the room will fill with icy water and it will hurt. As long as we sort of keep the door closed, it is like saying to ourselves, "Let us not worry about what is going on out there". The former speaker referred to the Brandt report which dealt with a similar scenario. This is not just a story to talk about. The report indicated that now we are faced with a situation which requires a program for survival. It referred to not only the poor people but to all people on the face of the globe.

The sooner we can get our family affairs in order, the better. I appreciate the fact that the constitution is very important; I have no difficulty with that. It is equally important for the family to decide how it will live and work as a family. I would like to see this kind of thinking. I would like to see this kind of action taken as quickly as possible so that we can be part of the greater community. I believe our country has a great deal to offer to the greater community. We have more to offer than just the fact that we will take a bigger part in the International Monetary Fund because of the bill being discussed at this time. In order to put this into perspective, at this time in our Canadian history and of world history in general, drastic changes have taken place in the last ten or 20 years which have never taken place before. These changes demand some of the things recommended in the Brandt report.

I should like to relate another story. I realize that all the people in the world cannot get on one train, but let us imagine that all the people in the world are on a passenger train. The train is going down the track of history. Now, I know many people in this chamber have ridden on trains. Interestingly enough, a lot of young people today have never been on trains, but members of the chamber are old enough to have been on trains. When people travel on trains they are sitting, and the world is going past them as they pass by. As a rule they are comfortable, but if they go to the back of the train and look down what I would call history, they can see the tracks, ditches and telegraph lines. It is all there, it is perfect. It looks as if they are safe because they have come thus far. However, very few people see what is going on in front of the train. That is what I am trying to speak about today.

The front of the train is not like the back of the train. Up in front new components have been brought into the situation that were not there before. For instance, let us imagine that the train carrying the world population is coming to a bridge which has a series of pillars holding it up. None of us really understand the pillars completely, but they are very different from the tracks we have crossed. I never thought some of these pillars even existed 25 years ago, but now they have become