

of defending the widespread use of infant formulation in the Third World.

Notwithstanding that, it is a fact of life that infant formulas have become a way of life in too many Third World countries. Indeed, as the hon. member points out, it has created some problems. From the standpoint of the children's health particularly, largely because of the need for a source of potable water to mix with the infant formula, a number of children become quite sick. I expect there could probably be a good case made that many babies have died as a result of the use of infant formulas in the Third World.

● (2225)

The World Health Organization executive board is meeting this week in Geneva, and it hopes to make a recommendation or a regulation with respect to a code which will be applied to the use of different formulations in the Third World. If a decision is reached, then the matter should be ratified by the World Health Assembly some time in 1981.

The way in which United Nations organizations such as the World Health Organization establish their groups and go about their discussions, one might argue that it should be a registered art form. It is quite clear to me that the Canadian delegation has been consistent in its attempts to come up with a recommendation which will be adopted by the widest

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number of countries in the world. This is the position taken by the government, that it take the form of a recommendation which carries significant moral and political weight and which constitutes the judgment of the collective membership of the organization.

What is being contemplated is a draft recommendation in very precise terms so as to avoid controversy at the time of implementation, thereby allowing it to be put into effect immediately in the greatest number of countries possible. I believe that this is a goal which is shared by both sides of this House. This recommendation will be consistent with the promotion of the health of all children and will be acceptable to the governments of the provinces, the people of Canada and the Government of Canada.

That in a nutshell is the position taken by the Canadian government at Geneva this week. I hope it will lead to the implementation of a code which will decrease the number of deaths which occur as the result of the use of infant formulations in the Third World.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

At 10.28 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.