

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

I did not hear all he said, but judging from reports it was negative. It is quite wrong to attribute nothing but words to what has been done, because there has been a great deal of substance as was pointed out in the speech I made at that time. For example, perhaps no area of the world has received more aid from the Canadian aid program, per capita, than has the Caribbean area. Countries in that area are, however, looking for trade and development.

Since the conference, and even before, I have had many discussions with the appropriate ministers and government officials from the area. I spent considerable time with Hon. Robert Lightbourne at Halifax and today for example I spent several hours in particular with the High Commissioner of Jamaica. This is just illustrative of the close co-operation between the two countries.

I share what I am sure is the fervent hope of the hon. member that the conference in July will actually put flesh on what he regards as the skeleton. It is the determination of this government, supported by my own resolve, to do something to our mutual advantage when the time comes. We are doing the development work to this end now.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN POPULATION CONTROL

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, the immediate matter which prompted me to ask this question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs was the statement made on May 26 by H. O. Moran, director general of the Canadian foreign aid program, that the most serious single problem facing developing countries is that of population growth.

From a long way back we have known that the population explosion is becoming more and more serious. For instance, I read the following in the February, 1966 edition of *Canadian Hunger Foundation*:

It is estimated that the present population of the world is about 3.4 billion, and that of this number at least half suffer from undernutrition or malnutrition. If world population continues to increase at its present rate, there will be 6 billion people, and some authorities now say 7 billion, by 2000 AD. This will occur within the working life-span of our young people now in high school.

The Commission of Churches on International Affairs at Geneva last year pointed out that along with this existing problem is another important factor contributing to the gravity of the situation, and that is the lag in

agricultural development, and the resulting poor harvests. FAO figures for the 1960 to 1964 period indicate a virtual standstill in regard to rates of food production per capita in Asia and Africa, and a worsening situation in Latin America.

Indeed, a member of this house, at a meeting at which Mr. Moran who has returned from India spoke, suggested that there is no reasonable prospect for an end to starvation in some countries unless the rate of population growth is curbed.

I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs the other day as to the policy of the Canadian government in regard to assisting underdeveloped countries with population planning and family control. I feel that the Canadian government is moving slowly, yet none the less moving in the direction of support for the United Nations policies designed to grapple with world population problems. Prior to 1962 and in 1962 Canada abstained from voting at the United Nations General Assembly on questions having to do with birth control, and with population planning. At a meeting of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva, in July, 1965, Canada voted for a resolution which authorized the United Nations and its special agencies to increase its activities in the field of population control.

We note in passing that speaking in Rome last year at a meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauv ) seemed to be greatly impressed by the danger of the situation when he stated we were losing the battle against hunger.

I think it is time the Canadian government made it perfectly plain where it stands on this matter. I believe this country is moving forward in its thinking. Two or three years ago there was a definite reluctance to have anything to do with measures of population control. But today even within our own country those of us on the health and welfare committee have found there is a disposition to take the attitude that this should be a matter of conscience and that it should be possible to pass on information and make available contraceptive devices in order to help in family planning and control when help is requested, when this is not forbidden by religious or other beliefs, and when the use, of this assistance is in no way obligatory.