

I agree—and if I did not agree, I would not be so interested in the work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association—that it is one thing for diplomatic activity to try to solve political and economic problems on bilateral or on multilateral basis. But I believe we, as parliamentarians, all think that we should have more direct influence in this kind of activity. From what Senator Flynn has said this morning and from what Senator Martin said the other day, the Council of Europe at least gives the European parliamentarians an opportunity which we, too, should avail ourselves of, because Europe means a great deal to us, not only for political or economic reasons, but for cultural reasons as well. It gives parliamentarians an opportunity to come to grips with its problems. It gives them a practical opportunity to present them to the Council of Ministers of the governments represented, and thereby it gives them an opportunity to influence the governments themselves in the direction of the policy they are trying to formulate. Who can quarrel with that?

I think this is the first time a Canadian delegation has ever gone there and for the few dollars that it cost, I think the two speeches that have been made here amply bear out its value.

I disagree with Senator O'Leary's view, just as I disagreed with him on the views that he expressed with reference to the European Economic Community when it was established, because I was a firm believer in it, and I continue to be. But I see hope arising out of what Senator Flynn and Senator Martin have said, that perhaps the ideals of the European Economic Community will spread within Europe. I hope that Britain will be a member of it—indeed, the whole of the British Isles, including Ireland; and Ireland will step right in, I am told, just as quickly as Britain moves in.

I would hope too that there might be the possibility of developing the Council of Europe, if you will, as the instigator or prodder of the concept of an Atlantic trading basin. This would be a great thing for this country, which has so much to give to gain from the countries in the Atlantic basin. Our country is moving ahead industrially. It is to the developed countries we must look to develop further. I think our extractive industries have much to gain if there is a widening of trade opportunities within the Atlantic basin.

Speaking without preparation, I had another idea which I wanted to express, but it escapes me at the moment. In any event,

perhaps I may conclude by simply saying this. I think what these four gentlemen have done is a step in the right direction. It at least indicates that the Parliament of Canada, through its representatives, is ready to be responsive to new developments, to new ideas, because in the business world there are new ideas new developments and new proposals arising all the time to which Government must respond. So, too, must there be adaptation to events as between governments.

The thought that had momentarily escaped me was this. While I would like to see the Atlantic basin concept developed, perhaps as a result of a thrust that might emerge from the work of the Council of Europe, I would hope, particularly because of the findings of OECD, that the developed nations of the world would give the greatest possible urgent attention to the problems of the "third world," to the problems of the developing countries.

This is probably the last time, and I am sure you are glad, that I shall have the opportunity of speaking in this portion of the session. If it is the last thing I ever say in Parliament, I say that one of the most important problems confronting the world today is the disparity between the developed countries, on the one hand, which are growing richer, and on the other, the developing countries which are growing poorer. The gap is enlarging. Despite the spending over the past two decades of \$40 billion by the private sector and at least that much, and perhaps more, by the public sector, in the developed countries, this situation has worsened. Although the situation is, in fact, better absolutely in some of these developing countries, relatively speaking it is much worse.

We must give these people hope. We must give them help. If we do not, then we do it at our own peril.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Honourable senators, if there are no other speakers today, I should like to move the adjournment of this debate for Senator Aird, who is ill. He was a member of the delegation, and I am sure that he wants to participate in the debate.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Martin, for Hon. Mr. Aird, debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

At 12.45 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.