

and concurrence in amendments made by the Senate to Bill C-12, to establish the International Development Research Centre.

He said: Mr. Speaker, we have before us a bill that was approved by this House on February 20 and has since been amended in the other place in two respects, as appears in *Votes and Proceedings* for March 24. I should first like to address myself to the amendment to clause 19. In approving this change, I understand the hon. senators were anxious to avoid the connotation of the term "charitable organization" used in the legislation as approved by the House. The terms was included in the bill simply to indicate the legal status of the centre for income tax and estate tax purposes and not to imply in any way that its activities in relation to the developing countries will be in the nature of "charity". The clause, as now amended, makes this legal reference quite explicit by quoting the respective acts. The centre's taxation position is thereby defined and protected, without the unnecessary implications of the term "charity".

In moving that this House concur in this amendment, I would commend our colleagues in the other place for their alertness and sensitivity in recognizing the undesirable reference of the original wording. Certainly, the House will agree that if international development is to be equated with charity, it will undoubtedly fail. For charity is often conceived as a vertical activity with the giver on top and the taker below. Development, on the other hand, must be considered as a lateral activity for the benefit and improvement of all parties. The reciprocal exchange of ideas and data made possible by research is particularly consistent with this lateral activity of international development. I am grateful to the hon. senators for noting this important distinction and I have no hesitation in recommending that we endorse the amendment.

Let me now turn to clause 10 (3), which was first introduced by the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather) in the committee. It has now been amended. It is now proposed that two of the governors of the centre who are Canadian citizens may be members of the Senate or members of the House of Commons. As I understand it, there are several combinations which would be made possible by this proposal. There could be one member from either the House of Commons or the Senate, or there could be two, both from one chamber. Although the potential parliamentary representation on the

International Development Research Centre

International Development Research Centre Board is thereby doubled, I hasten to point out that the operative word in the amendment is "may" and not "shall". The proposal remains therefore permissive, not mandatory. This was recognized by the committee of the other place on Foreign Affairs from whose report I now quote:

The Governor in Council, under this amendment, does not have to appoint any member of parliament — It is permissive.

Nevertheless, the questions I raised on third reading here in the House are of even greater importance to us now. Though I do not wish to repeat my remarks, I believe those questions and my reservations which were expressed to be even more cogent in view of the present amendment.

Surely, we do not wish the International Development Research Centre to be viewed as an institution requiring special measures for surveillance by our legislative bodies. On the contrary, because of its international character and the need to establish clearly its integrity and objectivity as a research organization, it is imperative that the autonomy of this centre be protected. The respect felt for it in the international centres of the world could be seriously compromised if two members of our legislative bodies were to be appointed and regarded as representing a special form of supervision unique to the centre amongst Canadian governmental institutions. Hence their role should be clearly defined before any such appointments are made, and until there is clarification the government does not intend to make any such appointments.

The composition of the Board of Governors of the centre, then, has been of lengthy and considerable concern to both the House of Commons and to the Senate. I can only assume that this attention reflects a growing awareness among all Canadians of the vital importance of international development. At a time when investment in foreign aid is diminishing among many of the major donor countries, it is particularly encouraging to see Canadian leaders in all parties and in both houses represent with such responsible care, attentiveness, and thorough deliberation the international concerns of the Canadian people.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I share the minister's view that the Senate has performed a useful function in ensuring that there is no connotation of charity attached to this important proposal.