

Supply—External Affairs

For instance, I think there are many members of this house who deplore some of the activities of the governments of Spain and Portugal. Would the hon. member suggest that we sever all diplomatic and trade relations with those governments because we do not like what they are doing? Come to think of it, Mr. Chairman, it does seem to me that the government which the hon. member supported was the first one to negotiate the sale of wheat to communist China, which of course has been guilty also of aggression against India. The hon. member for Oxford took great pride in that step by his government, and I certainly do not remember him raising objections against these actions of the government he supported, which I thought were very commendable. I am now depressed by the supporters of that government, and particularly with their foreign affairs spokesman, who apparently disagrees with that view. I feel that is a very serious attitude for any member of the Canadian parliament to take.

Mr. Moreau: Including the member for Skeena?

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Yes, including the hon. member for Skeena, if you wish. I did not hear him last night, but possibly he has his own views and he spoke for himself. I am now speaking for myself.

I think this is a very serious attitude to take. We who live in an affluent society should be very careful just how moralistic we are going to be. We must be very careful as to whether we consider, because we are wealthy, we have a right to impose regulations on the rest of the world. There are what I call deplorable examples of aggression in the world, but I am firmly of the belief, and I may be naïve, that even to risk withholding from starving or hungry human beings food which would relieve their misery cannot but ultimately have a bad end. If we wish to be moralistic let us be moralistic on that point, that we have a responsibility to our fellow human beings.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Chairman, I should like to make some comments about the general purpose of this vote for the provision of technical assistance and aid to various parts of the world. I took the opportunity this year in Copenhagen of pointing out that the capacity of countries such as Canada to help underdeveloped areas is to some extent conditioned by the capacities of those countries to receive aid. In the first

place they have to be literate populations because an illiterate population cannot operate a modern economy or a modern society. More than that, they must have developed in their midst all those skills which go to making a modern economy. We must do something more than just send goods to those countries.

At this point I should like to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we should not pride ourselves too much on helping the Indonesian or other peoples when we sell them wheat. We should remember that we are also helping the prairie wheat farmers, which I think is perhaps one of the considerations the Canadian government has in mind and which it should have in mind. I do not quarrel with that at all, but let us not adopt too virtuous a position. We must provide these developing areas with the means and ability to help themselves during their organization. That is much more difficult and costly than simply providing material things. I hope that we shall not observe the hon. member for Oxford rising in his place objecting to the provision of teachers for Indonesia.

Mr. Nesbitt: I suggested we should train some.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): You were merely suggesting that we train a few. I am suggesting that we should be providing Indonesia and all these developing countries with as large a number of teachers and technically trained individuals as we can muster. This to my mind is equally as important as, if not more important than, sending actual material, concrete goods to relieve conditions in these countries. I hope the Canadian government will continue to increase, as I heard this morning on the radio they are proposing to do, the contributions we are making under these various plans, and will bear in mind that we have an opportunity here of which I think a great many Canadians are anxious to avail themselves.

During the last week or two I had an opportunity to address three or four groups of university students, and I found that at each campus I visited there was intense interest in the possibility of this sort of imaginative service to humanity, or in this adventure, if you will call it that. This is certainly something to stimulate the minds of young Canadians, and I hope the Canadian government will not be deterred from advancing along this line at a much more rapid rate than it has done in the past. I realize that probably Canada's greatest contribution to these de-