

within the International Monetary Fund's oil facility whereby the proposition is now approved by the interim committee for subsidized interest rates to the developing world. As to what our contribution will be, I will have to discuss that with my colleagues. I would remind the hon. gentleman and the committee that in 1974 there were only two industrialized countries which contributed to that facility: Canada, for \$300 million, and the Netherlands. The other countries were the OPEC, oil producing nations.

In the development committee, which was a sister committee of the interim committee, which met last Friday—we did not have the final draft of the communiqué which was drafted late in the afternoon, but I hope to receive it and table it in the House—Canada supported the establishment proposition put forward by Mr. Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank, for the third window, this being a technique very similar to AHOP here in Canada whereby moneys are used to subsidize interest rates in the aid program. The first window is direct grants under the World Bank, the second window is concessional financing, and the third window will be subsidized interest rates in terms of allocation.

We also supported the study of the American idea of a trust fund and whatever initiatives the World Bank may have in conjunction with the fund for ensuring aid to areas suffering from the current dislocations in foreign aid provoked in part by the quadrupling of oil prices in the last 18 months, and by providing whatever help we can to the most seriously affected nations which are in a position, not of being inconvenienced in the sense that Canadians may be by a lower standard of living, but of having to survive a potential famine or a potential crisis of inadequate supplies of fertilizer or fuel, the very necessities of life.

Mr. Roche: Mr. Chairman, I thank the minister for responding. It seems to me that he has accepted the central point which I tried to put across, namely, that in the motivation of Canada in taking these steps to help the developing countries the picture is changing, both substantially and rapidly, from a matter of taking small steps in providing aid to taking very big steps in changing international systems. It seems that the minister has accepted that viewpoint, although in saying that Canada supported the managing director's report to set up this special fund to help countries most hurt by the oil crisis, the minister has not yet said in what way Canada will carry out the support—in other words, how much money will be made available to that fund.

That brings me to the next point. I wonder if the minister will participate more actively in this enlarged picture of Canada's international aid for development by not just letting CIDA carry the ball for this country in accordance with the old concept of foreign aid that there has never been enough aid but, rather, will adopt the concept of today that aid is no longer enough. It seems to be that this calls for active intervention by the Minister of Finance for the precise reason that the problems now centre around the question of international financial mechanisms.

I leave the minister on this point. If what I have said is right, I would like to know from the minister what position Canada will take with regard to the transformation of

Customs Tariff

the interim committee that he has been chairing into a permanent body.

The Chairman: Order, please. I do not wish to limit the hon. member, but he is opening wide the debate. We are on the schedule I tariff items. I think that if we start a debate on external aid and also allow the minister to open a debate on some of the functions that he has outside the House in connection with the International Monetary Fund, we will not make progress and it would be against the rules of the House.

Mr. Roche: Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your comments. Indeed, I anticipated that you would try to cut me off when I moved from the subject of tariffs on handicraft items to the larger picture of international financial mechanisms. In your attempt to cut me off—which I respect, and I will not speak more than half a minute—you have helped me to make my point, namely, that what we are talking about in improving tariffs for handicraft items is a small matter compared with the real issue of the way in which Canada can become involved.

I want to make the following point about moving from the interim committee to a permanent committee. I wonder whether or not the developing countries, those countries which we are ostensibly trying to help through items in the bill before us, will be given voting rights on the permanent committee so that they can share in decisions respecting international monetary financing and the recycling of petro-dollars to their own advantage, rather than being subject to the benign considerations of assemblies such as the Parliament of Canada. That is what I want to know from the minister.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I can relate my comments to the subject of handicrafts within this context. Yes, Canada supports the genesis of the interim committee as a permanent council of the International Monetary Fund. The council is composed of 20 ministers, representing 20 constituencies involving 106 nations. Of those 20 constituencies, almost half are predominantly third world constituencies. A good many of the others, even those represented by members from the developed, industrial world, also have within their constituencies members of the developing world. That is where the voice of the LDCs and MSAs is strongly heard.

In Canada's own constituency, both in the IMF and in the World Bank, we represent the Bahamas, Jamaica, Barbados, Ireland, and in the World Bank, Guyana. So that in representing our constituency I am in fairly frequent consultation with my constituents on those positions. We take the view of the developing world, on some issues more particularly, that part of the developing world has reached the threshold of having a varied economy. I want to assure the hon. gentleman that there is nothing in his remarks with which I disagree.

● (1610)

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Chairman, I believe earlier the Minister of Finance indicated that he would respond to some of the comments made by my colleague with respect to item 87500-1. Is the minister now in a position to respond, particularly on whether the government will consider an amendment to allow reference to the House of Commons