

other way to handle it than those which have been suggested by Prime Minister Smith or Prime Minister Wilson of Great Britain.

Speaking of foreign aid, Canada contributed more than half a billion dollars—\$528,678,000—in money, services and equipment as part of the Colombo Plan from 1951 to the end of the 1964-65 fiscal year.

It is extremely difficult to estimate the number of foreign aid programs under way around the world. Canada is serving in 50 to 65 countries. This does not include Latin America or sub-continental countries.

Some contributions to be appropriated in the 1965-66 fiscal year, as far as I can find out, are as follows: To the United Nations Special Fund, \$5 million; to the World Health Organization, \$1,382,000; to the United Nations Children's Fund, \$1 million; to the Economic, Technical Educational and other assistance, the Commonwealth Africa Aid Program, the Commonwealth Caribbean Assistance Plan, the Commonwealth Scholarship Plan, etc., \$48,500,000.

Canada's contribution to foreign aid is increasing. It is expected that an estimated \$250 million will be appropriated for the current fiscal year. Even at this figure I understand that although we are making very large contributions, the per capita amount that we contribute is below that of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, West Germany, Belgium and, I think, Japan.

Honourable senators it is impossible to determine how much private agencies have contributed in terms of dollars in this field. The list which I have given comprises public agencies. The External Aid Office estimates that there are from 75 to 80 private agencies assisting people overseas. Their spending cannot be estimated but it is well up in the millions or perhaps in the tens of millions.

A matter which is not in the Speech from the Throne but which is being mentioned quite commonly in Canada is as to whether or not Canada should join the Organization of American States. This was prompted by Mr. Pearson's recent trip to Jamaica, and his subsequent statements. He implied that our acceptance of membership may depend upon whether Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica are asked to join. Both the United States and Latin American countries for many years have urged Canada to join, so this is not something new. Presumably our position would be that of a buffer between the South American countries and the United States.

The United States, of course, have long wanted our help in handling many of the very difficult problems involved, and in this connection I would just mention the Dominican Republic and Cuba. This, in my opinion, is strong enough reason not to join. Canada should not be placed in the position of a buffer. Our relations with the United States have always been of first importance and we should guard them jealously, much more than our relations with Latin American countries. If we were to join the Organization of American States we might frequently be placed in the position where we would have to disagree with the United States, and in doing so take sides, as it were, between them and the Organization of American States or various South American states.

Our association with the Caribbean countries through the Commonwealth has nothing whatever to do with the O.A.S. These countries are part of the Commonwealth and we have responsibilities towards them, but we feel that should they decide to join the O.A.S. it does not necessarily follow that we must also join. In my opinion that would be the least important reason for joining. The Caribbean countries have much more in common with Latin America than has Canada. Our political and economic thinking flows more east and west than it does to the extreme south. As the *Montreal Star* stated in an editorial on January 21, 1966:

Membership in the O.A.S. might make sense for the Caribbean islands. It might also make eventual sense for us. But not yet.

There is simply nothing to gain. There is hardly a stable government in the South American countries at the present time. If we were to join the O.A.S. at this stage we would, in my view, simply be borrowing trouble.

There are many other matters I could mention but I do not intend wearying the house for many minutes longer. There was mention in the speech of fair wages and hours of labour, and I understand a bill has been prepared which I hope will solve our difficulties in this field. We are having far too many strikes in Canada—we have even reached the stage where school children are going on strike. It seems as if everybody wants to strike.

Then, there is mention of the Canadian Vessels Construction Act which is to be amended. Unfortunately, there is to be a