

us with a car under great duress. That was his contribution to that conference, which was an international conference for which we paid a large sum of money. The Canadian delegation did not make much of a contribution, but we did pay more than our share for that conference. The ambassador's contribution was one small party at which a number of us ended up dancing on a table. He finally gave us each a bottle of booze and asked us to leave, which we did. I have not found him to be of any help.

I think that most Canadians, including me, do not know where those countries are in which we are going to spend \$115 million. If it is Georgia, O.K., but I am not sure that we should start dealing with the state government of Georgia. If we have done that, then perhaps we have recognized the state of Georgia. How about Alabama? Have we recognized Alabama yet? Has George Wallace been elevated to head of the state, and do we intend to put some money there? I have heard of Budapest—it is very reasonable over there. We are only going to spend some \$60,500. In Lusaka we are going to spend \$315,000. I do not know where that is either, Mr. Chairman. Probably it did not exist when I went to school; neither did Brazilia, but I know where that is. I do not know whether this town in Pakistan still exists after the war they had out there. New Delhi, everybody knows where that is.

I am suggesting that my knowledge of geography is not any worse because of my age than other people's knowledge of that subject. There are many people who do not know where those places are, and we are spending a lot of money putting up buildings in those places. It is my suggestion that we should do as we have done in many other countries with which we have established relations, namely, rent accommodation in these areas. I think it is rather ludicrous for us to be spending such large amounts of money on putting up buildings and facilities of the kind mentioned here. I have no objection to the Secretary of State for External Affairs suggesting that we spend money on an agency which is established to help some country. I have no objection when in my locality the principal of one of the schools goes to Africa and establishes a school over there. I have no objection when I hear of him going to South America and establishing a school there. Such projects are worthwhile, Mr. Chairman, but I wonder if Canada is not deluding itself and deluding Canadians into thinking we have reached the scale of countries such as Britain or the United States and a couple of other old super powers which have to have large buildings of their own flying their own flag in a country which needs their help.

My experience in external affairs is limited. It is probable that I have not taken as many trips as I should have. Perhaps I have not been allowed to do so by some of my confreres. In any case, it seems to me that our committee is failing totally in trying to approve such expenditures. We have on our committees in many cases people who know the countries which I have mentioned, and who have spent some time living there. It surprises me that they have not asked more questions about such a large expenditure as half a million dollars. Obviously, they all know where those places are and why we should have some representation there. They are familiar with these situations, but I and the general Canadian public are not.

### Supply

This is certainly a place where we could cut off an awful lot of fat.

• (1430)

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I was interested to read in the newspaper yesterday that a former minister of this House, who in my opinion was a very competent minister of trade and commerce, said that unless he could get some kind of arrangement with his former colleagues in the cabinet, he personally would set up a consortium that would trade with other countries across the word. He would set up a trading agency on behalf of entrepreneurs in this country and conduct business with traders in other countries. The minister should be asked what he anticipates such an agency would be doing. Are we helping peoples poorer than we are by establishing large diplomatic buildings in their countries? What is the purpose of the expenditures we make?

Many hon. members who have attended meetings of the United Nations realize we are not the powerful country that we sometimes think we are. The simple reason for that is that we have not given leadership to the third power nations due to our close association with our great neighbour to the south, that great neighbour who sometimes dominates us. We have not given leadership to the South American countries. We have not given leadership to the Asiatic countries. Yet we seek to impress the Canadian public that we are doing a wonderful job by the establishment of huge monuments in those countries. We are spending a fantastic amount of money on such projects. It seems to me that all we are doing is providing a lot of salaries for a lot of people. I think that an appointment to one of these overseas posts would even be a softer job than an appointment to the other place, provided I did not have weak kidneys and was not susceptible to cirrhosis of the liver.

We have a contribution to make to countries across the world. We have an obligation to participate, but I would like to know if Zambia, for instance, is going to build similar kinds of facilities in our country as we are building in Lusaka. I would like to know if India is going to build the same kind of facilities in Canada that we are putting up in New Delhi. Will Pakistan do so? In my opinion these countries will not do that. I live on the street where most of those countries have their embassies in Ottawa. That is where they conduct their business, and where occasionally they get blown up. I would like the minister to explain why we should put on this kind of face across the world, without showing some accomplishment for the Canadian people, or some accomplishment for the people we are supposed to be helping. I have looked over the list of overseas investments and foreign aid contributions that we make. I am proud of those contributions. For a country our size we have done an excellent job, but I do not think the capital expenditures that we put into palatial edifices in other countries do anything for the Canadian people or for the interests of Canada. If Canadians knew about this they would be opposed to it.

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** Is the committee ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.