

were not so sure. Today this hope for the federation has been fractured. The situation which exists certainly is a civil war and is the tragedy of the year.

The remarks that have been made by the different members who have participated in the debate this afternoon substantiate the fact that the conscience of the nation, yes of the world, has been awakened by this situation. It is likewise a sad commentary that the United Nations, and other organizations which exist for the very purpose of solving problems between nations, have been ineffective, have been unable or unwilling to provide any effective solution for stopping the war. I cannot help but say this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, that I wish to God our consciences were just as aware of what is taking place in other parts of the world. We discuss whether or not genocide is the situation in Nigeria. All we have to do is look at the facts in Tibet to realize that genocide is a fact in that country. Methodically down through the years the Chinese communists have sought to destroy the Tibetan nation, the Tibetan people and the Tibetan religion.

Coming back to Africa, I should like to refer to a part of it which I know even better than Nigeria, that is the Sudan, where the Nilotic peoples of the Upper Sudan during the last few years have suffered suppression that has cost, not tens of thousands but hundreds of thousands of lives. Unfortunately most people do not even know this suppression has ever taken place. This situation exists in several parts of the world, but we are not very much concerned or informed about it. It is good, however, that we are concerned and informed about the situation in Nigeria, at least a little. I feel that this debate this afternoon is of great value, just as the committee meetings have been, and just as all the dialogue that has developed across this country during the last few months has been. I wonder, however, just how much might have been done, how much we would have been aware of this situation if it had not been for the journey to Biafra undertaken by the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald) and the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin).

Mr. Richardson: Is that the 36 hour one?

Mr. Thompson (Red Deer): Yes, it may have been for 36 hours, but those 36 hours were a lot more than many people had who are having a lot to say on this matter. Such a visit might not give knowledge in depth, but it certainly gives a familiarization which I wish every member in this house could have had.

External Aid

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, whatever the reasons are, as I have said it is good that we have had this debate, that we are aware of the situation. I am concerned a little bit about some remarks that were made in the house this afternoon. I was disturbed by the remarks of the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Cafik), because he attempted to interpret the motivation of members of the committee who happened to be from the opposition. It seemed to me that he lowered the level of the debate.

An hon. Member: Oh, come off it.

Mr. Thompson (Red Deer): Everyone has the right to have his motives and his intentions regarded with respect. What has been branded as an attempt to get publicity by some, I feel shows an ignorance of what actually is taking place, and I am unhappy about it. One of the characteristics of this chamber, which I have learned down through the years, is the respect that members give other members with regard to their motivation and the convictions they hold. I hope it will never be otherwise. As I listened to the remarks of the hon. member for Ontario I could not help but think of the testimony given before the committee by people like Dr. Johnson, of the Presbyterian missions; Major General Wrinch, national commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross Society; Mr. Romeo Maione, of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace; Mr. Alan Grossman of *Time Magazine*; Mr. Charles Taylor of the *Globe and Mail* and Mr. Keith Bezanson, of CUSO. All of these people have had extensive experience in Biafra, and not just a 36 hour experience. They know what this situation is like.

Mr. Sharp: And Arnold Smith.

Mr. Thompson (Red Deer): The minister mentions Mr. Arnold Smith, and I was going to refer to him. However, he is in a slightly different category.

Mr. Richardson: And General Milroy.

Mr. Thompson (Red Deer): If hon. members would give me a chance to speak, I will mention these people.

Mr. Bell: They do not like it.

An hon. Member: Oh, come on.

Mr. Thompson (Red Deer): I could mention people like Mr. Arnold Smith and Major General Milroy, friends of mine whom I respect a great deal. As we listened to these