

Supply—External Affairs

I should like, therefore, to pay tribute to this work and to associate with these remarks the Canadian members of the United Nations Congo force. These men have not had such a long experience in international service, but in their relatively short experience they have been exposed to difficulties and tribulations which have been very great indeed. In facing these difficulties and tribulations they have conducted themselves with characteristic courage and that kind of discipline, in the face of great provocation, with which Canadian soldiers in my day were not always credited.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I am sure that all hon. members of the committee share in the sentiments which the Leader of the Opposition has expressed. The task of the United Nations expeditionary force has now slipped out of the headlines. Africa leaped on to the centre of the world stage in 1960 and there has been relatively small place left in the headlines for the United Nations expeditionary force.

However, that force has been carrying on, and its Canadian component, with patience, perseverance and in a manner that continues to make Canadians proud of their armed forces wherever they serve.

With regard to our forces in the Congo, I am sure all Canadians are aware of the dangers under which Canada's armed forces are serving. In the face of attacks, and indeed some very severe dangers, they have come through. Their role has been one of hardship and peril, and in the face of these challenges these men have acquitted themselves with gallantry and courage, again in a manner that makes Canadians proud of them.

Mr. Regier: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to cast a disparaging note on the very amiable discussion that has just taken place. However, I have had the privilege of attending the United Nations for three years now and the discussion we have just heard between the government and the official opposition is rather fantastic. It indicates a lack of realization of the problem with which other nations of the world are faced.

We have to realize that the personal income of Canadians is second in the world only to the personal income of the residents of the United States of America, and for us to be blowing our horn—and this has now been going on during a number of speeches of the government and the official opposition—is, I feel, most unseemly and most unchristian.

I would be the last one to disparage the efforts of Canadians who are serving overseas. However, I am reminded of the little quotation, "I thank thee, Lord, that I am not a sinner like the others are". I think it is most

unseemly to adopt this attitude on behalf of Canadians and to be listing other nations not in the communist bloc which have not met the obligations expected of them.

These other nations have problems that are beyond our comprehension. I feel that for us to be scratching each other's backs and praising the Lord for what good people we are is most unseemly indeed, and I am a little bit ashamed to be a Canadian tonight.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is of course entitled to his own feelings. If that is the way he feels, as a Canadian, I can only say I am quite certain there is no other hon. member of the committee who shares the feelings which the hon. member has just expressed.

I will say this, that nothing that has been said here tonight deserves to be regarded as—

Mr. Benidickson: He has been here only for ten minutes.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):—clapping ourselves on the back. The references to the list of delinquents concerns those countries which have failed to meet obligations in respect of assessments made by the United Nations. In arriving at these assessments the United Nations takes into account all the circumstances of these countries. It is not a question of arbitrary assessments being applied. All the considerations pertaining to the respective economic strength and means of these countries are weighed and taken into account before the assessments are ever arrived at. This is a matter of countries not measuring up, not paying assessments which were arrived at after a vote of the organization in question. Therefore, in drawing attention to the fact that there is a substantial number of countries who are in a delinquent position with respect to these assessments it is right we should bear in mind that the delinquency arises in respect of assessments levied by the organization itself after taking due account of the circumstances in which those countries find themselves. We must bear in mind that the countries which measure up to their obligations and which, as in the case of Canada, have gone beyond the extent of their obligations in order to help out, do so in the face of the fact that other countries have not lived up to their obligations.

Mr. Macdonnell: It seems to me that the criticism we have just heard is wide of the mark not only because of what the minister has just said but for another reason. Surely, what the Minister of Finance was doing was to discuss our position frankly, recognizing the fact that there are certain outstanding obligations which someone has to take care of. I