

Financial Institutions

achieve real development in these under-industrialized countries and establish some kind of balance on this planet, we must help Third World countries with education and training. With Bill C-130, which is a vehicle for demonstrating the generosity of the Canadian people with respect to others who are less fortunate—I should mention CIDA which is doing tremendous work in various countries—in fact we realize that notwithstanding its small population, Canada is making a real effort to help people achieve a decent standard of living, and if we compare it to our own, we realize that Canadians have a very extraordinary standard of living, that we cannot keep all this to ourselves and that we must help others to achieve it for themselves, by immediately providing certain resources to enable other countries to share the general standard of well-being we enjoy here in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I think that what I had to say on the subject was important. However, I was disappointed just now when I saw the members opposite trying as hard as they could to limit the duration of the debate on a party basis, but I still think that in our parliamentary system, we have principles on the basis of which all members can choose to express their own particular views, and personally, I felt it was very important to stress the relationship between rich countries and Third World countries with respect to industry and trade, because it is not just a matter of sending money for the sake of sending money, it is a matter of mutual development, and we should never forget that. In discussions heard regularly on TV or in newspaper articles, the public often seems to think it is a relationship of superior to inferior, where the same side always wins and the same side always loses. Again, if we consider Bill C-130 and its international development strategy, which authorizes continuing financial assistance to be provided to certain international financial institutions, it should be pointed out that all this has a very positive impact on the economy of our own country. I feel it is an important consequence of international development which should be given particular emphasis.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government, in the next few months, to make a list of all international projects in the Third World in which we are involved. I am sure that on both sides of the House Hon. Members will be surprised to see what Canadians have achieved abroad during the last twenty years. Tremendous work has been done everywhere in underdeveloped regions, and I think that if we could have a direct response from the countries concerned, we would be astonished at the gratitude of these people for the work done by Canada.

When it comes to international development, Canadians—French-speaking and English-speaking alike—should remember that we have been extremely generous toward Third World countries. For instance, our religious institutions did send over there an unbelievable number of Canadians to help those people; before governments got into the act, certain religious and social organizations made it possible to offer assistance to other countries and many years went by before Parliaments and governments could get organized to provide real technical

and technological assistance. Those who are not fully cognizant with international relations may forget to point out that those things got under way long before 1981 or 1982 thanks to the help of people who were concerned about improving the quality of life and the standard of living of their fellow human beings. That is only one part of the picture, of course, but often those are the aspects which are forgotten or upon which too little emphasis is laid so as to shed light on the full extent of international development. There is more to it than merely adopting bills and allocating funds to realize that progress has been made.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by pointing out the very worthwhile contribution made by various groups of Canadians who do not belong to government circles and yet did their share on the international scene to help underdeveloped countries. I also want to commend the Canadian Government for its continued assistance to underprivileged countries in technological, technical, industrial and trade matters. I hope that industrialized and underdeveloped nations will continue to co-operate, and that the opposition parties will support our efforts to promote international co-operation with developing countries.

• (1630)

[English]

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few minutes this afternoon to comment on Bill C-130, particularly in light of the remarks made by a number of Hon. Members opposite. On this side we had agreed to limit debate to enable us to get this important Bill into Committee and then go on with some other critical legislation, not the least of which is the Bill referred to as Canagrex.

Members on the Government side indicated that they felt very strongly about this Bill. There was an implication that Members on this side do not feel so strongly about it. I want to emphasize that we do feel very strongly about the essence of the Bill and about a number of its provisions. I do not want to spend too much time talking about it but I should like to make a couple of points that I feel have not received the emphasis they deserve.

The Bill, which is to authorize continuing financial assistance to be provided to certain financial institutions, comes at a critical time. I am not certain that Members of the Government and the various agencies concerned with foreign aid of one type and another appreciate the difficulty that Members of Parliament have in their constituencies when they try to justify the expenditures involved in efforts to assist developing countries in the Third and Fourth Worlds.

This Bill comes at a time when we Canadians face two crises. First, there is the domestic crisis of high unemployment, inflation at an extremely high level, historic levels of personal and business bankruptcies and, generally, a fear across the country of a very uncertain future. There is a fear that the Government simply is not on top of any kind of recovery