

economic sage, John Kenneth Galbraith. I do not know if all my colleagues would agree with everything he has written, but I think that one or two of his choice comments are particularly relevant, particularly the one which says international conferences are meant to give an appearance of progress even if no action actually takes place.

The problem now is the situation between the rich and poor countries of the world, as demonstrated to us most convincingly in the statement made to the subcommittee on international development here in parliament by the Secretary General of the Commonwealth in a most eloquent testimony which I commend to members of the House. That situation is now critical. It calls for action, not just rhetoric. That is why I return to the question tonight which I posed to the Prime Minister's representative here. Is he going to make some specific comments tonight on what Canada is going to do as distinct from what we say and giving lip service to this type of communique that raises hopes all over the world?

I want to know if Canada's aid will go forward or will it go back, because we have been going back in our percentage which has dropped from .58 per cent of GNP to .51 per cent this year, and Mr. Dupuis, the head of CIDA, said he will not rule out the possibility that it might even go below .5 per cent because they cannot even estimate with precision what our aid picture is today. Are we going to go ahead in open trade or are we going to build more protectionism into our society?

The textile policy announced in the House last December was a retrogressive step. If we are not going to have industrial adjustment programs that will help to solve the world's unemployment situation as we go into more high technology production for the goods that the world needs, I think this is really a step backward on the part of Canada and something that gives the lie to the Prime Minister's noble rhetoric.

On the question of unemployment, here we are talking about solving international unemployment. We are faced with the highest unemployment we have ever had in this country. Without a massive effort to show the world that we can cure unemployment in our own society, it hardly gives us credence to go into international conferences and say we will take steps to solve the world's unemployment situation.

On the question of the commodity fund, I want to know how much Canada will put into it. Will we actually press for the establishment of a mechanism to renegotiate the present debt and avoid a new debt, or are we just going to give lip service to communiques that raise hopes falsely? Those are the questions I put to the Prime Minister, and I ask for some specific answers tonight.

### *Adjournment Debate*

**Mr. Fernand E. Leblanc (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as I did not know exactly the topics which would be developed by the hon. member, I cannot answer all the questions he raised.

However, Canada continues to work to bring about a successful conclusion to the Conference on International Economic Co-operation. Hon. members will be aware that the North-South dialogue was an important element at the Downing Street summit this past week end. The Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau) was especially concerned that the leaders of the seven industrialized nations present should give full recognition to the needs of the developing countries. The communique of the meeting will show that this concern was shared by all. The communique took note of progress which has been made, and the leaders made some specific pledges for action.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Jamieson) and other ministers have been deeply involved in these issues and have made substantial contributions to the formation of Canadian policy. Action now appears likely at the CIEC in the key area of energy, commodity arrangements, including a possible common fund, and on a range of financial issues, including debt and levels of development assistance.

In all of this the role of the government House leader (Mr. MacEachen) in his capacity as co-chairman of the conference has been crucial to the continuing dialogue. Together with the other co-chairman, Dr. Manuel Perez-Guerrero, the Venezuelan Minister of State for International Economic Affairs, he has ensured the continuation of the conference, which at one time seemed very likely to fail. After considerable negotiation both developed and developing countries now appear ready to proceed to the final ministerial level meeting in Paris at the end of this month. The deputy co-chairman of the President of the Privy Council, the president of CIDA, is in Paris tonight for a review of the situation with conference participants following on the summit meeting last week end and following final preparatory meetings which have been under way in Paris.

The major concern of Canada is the desire to see a substantial contribution made to the economic development of developing countries. The government has been encouraged by progress in the North-South dialogue within and outside CIEC in recent months, and Canada will continue to play its part in contributing to concerted action by industrialized countries to improve the economic well being of developing countries.

Mr. Speaker, is my time up?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Yes.