

ful form of cooperation which is welcomed by the Caribbean authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by showing once again the kind of very serious difficulties Canadians would have to justify such an annexation before the whole world, at this time where Canada is trying to yield a pretty good image in the area of external relations an image of leadership in the matter of international détente, and of each people's right to self-determinate, and to decide more or less by itself how it will organize its own development. I do not see how we as Canadians could explain to the international community that interference or annexation of those two islands and eventually other islands, because if a precedent is created for two islands why not more? I do not see how we could explain that situation to the world community which then will not support Canada and will surely consider us as neo-colonialists or something else. I, for one, would not be proud to go around the world an being said: What did you do with Turks and Caicos Islands? What business did you have to do over there? Why did you not give them financial assistance? Why did you not help them by allowing them to develop themselves instead of including them in Canadian federation?

Mr. Speaker, the time when one could take possession of non-contiguous territories, an effective way to determine what we call colonialism, even with the consent of its inhabitants, is gone once and for all. Canada is willing to help her friends, or some less developed countries, to get their share of social and economic justice. She will continue to pursue that goal with the tools she has and those she might conceive; but annexation is not one of those tools.

I want to repeat that I feel the motion is unacceptable. But one must not conclude that, given that fact, any assistance must cease.

The hon. member said that there is no assistance program for Turks and Caicos Islands. I will not dispute that. I do hope that such a program will be implemented very soon and that the 6,000 people in the Turks and Caicos Islands will benefit as much from the Canadian assistance as their neighbours, the Commonwealth islands and the West Indies in general. It is not the intent of Canada to renounce values advocated for 15 years—

● (1630)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCleave): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his allotted time has expired. If he has unanimous consent, he may continue his remarks for a short time. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. Lachance: ... as I was saying, it is not our intent to renounce our values, and I do not believe Canada wishes to absorb neither of the islands of this area but, on the contrary, to assist them directly by providing more substantial funds.

[English]

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in a very few words I should like to indicate that we are happy to support the motion which is before the

West Indies

House in the name of the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie). As he and other hon. members of the House know, my colleague, the hon. member for Waterloo-Cambridge (Mr. Saltsman), has made a similar proposal in the form of a private member's public bill which has been before the House on two or three occasions.

When I suggest that the proposal in my colleague's bill and that in the hon. member's motion are similar, I have in mind that in neither case is there a proposal for an absolute and final settlement of the situation but, rather, that each hon. member is proposing machinery under which discussions might take place. It seems to me that discussions with our friends in the Caribbean area, to ascertain what kind of closer relations they might like to have with us, are desirable and ought to be set in motion in this House.

I listened with interest to the remarks of the hon. member for Lafontaine-Rosemount (Mr. Lachance) who indicated that he finds the motion of the hon. member for Hillsborough unacceptable. It seems to me that in order for the hon. member to reach that conclusion he had to read things into the motion which are not there.

My hon. friend from Hillsborough is not suggesting hegemony, annexation, neocolonialism or any other kind of colonialism. Rather, he is suggesting that there should be established arrangements under which discussions can take place. His proposal is that if those discussions were to lead to a statement of desire on the part of the people in some of the Caribbean islands for closer relations, whether economic or political, the whole question should be given consideration at the highest level. It is my view that it would be good for the people of that area, and good for us, if there were closer relations. I can even see the possibility of some of those islands being part of this country—of what province they would be a part might be an interesting question, but that is a detail which could be dealt with later on.

● (1640)

Mr. Whelan: Would they get four Senators, too?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I am afraid the people of Turks and Caicos islands do not even have enough people for representation by one member of parliament let alone a Senator. I suppose they would have to be attached to a constituency on the mainland, like the Magdalen Islands. However, I did not want to get sidetracked on to that aspect, though things like this can happen on a Friday afternoon. Rather, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the hon. member for Hillsborough, as I commend my hon. friend from Waterloo-Cambridge, my friend and colleague across the way, and even my friend who has gone to the other place, Senator McLraith, on proposing this idea. I hope our discussion today will lead to further consideration of this interesting proposal.

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, I shall not take very long. I wish to commend the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) on his excellent speech and for bringing forward this suggestion. I was a student at the University of British Columbia during the years when the confederation of all the formerly British islands of the West Indies was an important