

In order to realize these conditions Mr. Loxley thought it essential that the problem of Third World debt be treated as a matter of urgency. Although some steps have been taken in this direction--Canada has forgiven the poorest African countries part of the official debt--there is still a long way to go. The developing countries are exhausting their resources with heavy interest payments even though the banks in the industrialized world know full well that most of the debt will never be repaid and that their reserves, which have been refurbished thanks to the tax payers, are quite adequate to allow much of the debt to be annulled.

Professor Loxley then turned his attention to the situation in Canada and pointed out that here, too, a link between demography and poverty is forming as the population grows older. At present, people over sixty-five account for a third of the poor in Canada. By the year 2000, this group could amount to fifteen percent of the entire Canadian population and there is a considerable risk that this will produce a corresponding increase in the number of poor people. Despite the attention paid to the affluent Yuppies (young urban professionals) and the soaring prices of real estate in our big cities, there is nonetheless a great deal of inequality in our society. At the top of the heap, ten percent of the Canadian population possess thirty percent of the wealth, while at the bottom, thirty percent have to make do with ten percent of the total wealth. We will have to make a lot of progress, therefore, to ensure that the increasing number of old people do not become a poverty-stricken group in a society dominated by a small economic elite.

Canadian immigration policy constitutes a link between demography here and in the Third World. By this, Professor Loxley does not mean that overpopulation in the Third World could be solved by having people immigrate to Canada, rather that increased immigration is necessary for the future wellbeing of our country. He is strongly opposed to simplistic theories which view immigration as a threat to the economy and does not believe that it should be tied to the level of employment in Canada. Immigrants stimulate economic activity and an increase in immigration, particularly if it favours young families, would provide economic impetus and help balance our aging population.

In conclusion, Professor Loxley maintained that if the West wants to sustain international development and protect the environment, it cannot maintain its present high rate of growth or its luxurious style of life. We will have to accept that our way