

Government Orders

debt that they must try to pay. They have no economic basis on which to pay it.

I notice the Liberals are very silent on this whole thing. Of course, they sat there for years as the Canadian government and let the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank subjugate developing countries. They took no leadership role. They did nothing to try to break the cycle of debt and poverty that these nations are being put into.

Mr. Manley: What are you proposing; withdrawing from the IMF?

Mr. Karpoff: There are many things that could be done. All we have to do is look at some of the recommendations. I notice everybody is getting very jumpy but it is time that Canadians took a leadership role and looked at those countries and seen what we have done to them.

We are asking the poorest nations in this world to sacrifice their meagre standards of living so us fat cats up here can make more money. That is what we are doing.

Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre): How about trading with them?

Mr. Karpoff: Trading with them? Let us trade with them on commodities they can afford instead of trading with them simply to get their natural resources at the cheapest dollar.

Ms. Campbell (Vancouver Centre): Do you want us to be protectionists?

Mr. Karpoff: One of the things that we have to start to do is look at what the NGOs say on the World Bank and look at some of the things that they have to say in their assessment of what is happening. They point out: "There is no evidence to justify the bank's confidence that adjustment helps the poor in the long run. There is not any evidence to suggest that orderly adjustment, coupling with loan scheduling, offers in time a way out of the debt crisis".

We have got to start facing some realities. Further they go on to say: "Many of the elements of adjustment programs, including the rapid dismantlement and tightening of credit availability, the emphasis on export promotion and the cutting of public support for health

care and education are likely to increase inequities with the historical disadvantage of rural and urban poor being cemented in the place for another generation. Often what we are forcing these countries to do is to try to grow export commodities to satisfy their foreign debt to the disadvantage of their ability to feed their own populations".

We are saying to them: "Stop growing food crops and grow cash crops to feed the international debt". As a result we have driven these countries and the people into a lower and lower standard of living." They say for the bank to make a serious change in course, it will have to do more than support new poverty-focused programs. A fundamental rethinking of the development model that promotes it is required with active participation of local populations, sustainable development that builds upon their creative capacities and the efforts of the poor themselves. The monetary fund has to start working with these people instead of shutting them out of decisions. The bank should place more emphasis on protection for the domestic market, with food self-sufficiency as an important goal that should also be pursued. Many of these countries now even have to import food because we have taken away their basic agricultural market economy.

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Another one of the recommendations is that the bank should publicly stress the importance of land reform and of increasing local food security through greater emphasis on subsistence and self-providing crops. These are what internationally known NGOs familiar with the international field say.

Another key to this is the fact that women in these Third World countries are probably the most adversely affected by these policies. These people go on to say that for adjustment and related policies to increase food production and security over the long run, policy-makers must directly target and enhance women's productive roles. There are many other recommendations.

What this bill does is say that we are going to increase our stringent and punitive control over debtor nations. We are even going to take away their voting rights, to force them to withdraw from membership if they do not