

Commonwealth Caribbean

● (1652)

The heart of the dilemma today is low productivity in both the developed and developing worlds. That is at the heart of economic instability. Once we see that, it becomes easier to take a systematic approach, the kind of approach for which my friend is arguing. It is in the interests of both the rich and the poor, the developed and the developing, to increase the flow of capital into the developing world, and to improve the transfer of technology. That is what he is talking about in his motion today.

Mr. Raines: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member, but would he permit a question now?

Mr. Roche: I will close my remarks in just a moment and my friend can raise his question then.

In supporting this motion I should like to point out that moving toward a more dynamic global economy is in the mutual interest of both the north and the south, and by raising the purchasing power among the greatly expanding populations of the south, releasing new resources and developing new markets for both the poor and the rich, higher levels of trade can be created within and between all countries. That is the essence of the motion. In effect, the developing countries of the south can become one of the engines of resumed progress in the industrial world. We need those expanding markets.

The subject which we are debating this afternoon is far beyond the subject of just aid. Aid is an inconsequential aspect of the totality of the north-south relations. It is, as my friend points out, an important aspect still, but those who follow the north-south dialogue recognize that if we are going to make a realistic response to the challenges in the world today, then we have to move beyond aid and create a new development strategy.

As the third development decade opens in 1980, one of the things that Canada can do, since we do not really have a strategy but only a lot of ad hoc programs, is to develop a new strategy on industrial development co-operation with the nations in the north-south complex.

Mr. Maurice J. Williams, who is chairman of the development assistance committee of OECD, one of the world's foremost authorities on this general subject, notes the following:

Broad international support is more likely to be mobilized for evolutionary changes which remove unjust constraints in the international economic order, facilitate an ongoing process of structural change and encourage a concerted effort to help weak and vulnerable people.

That is what my friend is asking for this afternoon in his motion.

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Roche: Canada is well suited to lead and not be a grudging participant in the search for new order in the world. I think that the members of the House should have the opportunity to debate these questions. The Standing Committee on

External Affairs and National Defence should be much more active. If we did that, we would have a more realistic foreign policy that is understood and supported by the people of Canada, especially including the people from British Columbia.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Raines: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the hon. member who comes from Alberta, and I included Alberta in my remarks. What he said was most interesting in dealing with the need for trade with the Caribbean, but I would like to ask him if he would support me in acceding that the priorities of cultural and student exchanges should be the first priority of British Columbia and Alberta in the west? Would he support me in a motion with regard to that priority?

Mr. Roche: The hon. member is perfectly free to submit his own motion and to try to generate support for ideas that are closest to his heart. This afternoon we are privileged to have a motion from the hon. member for Hillsborough, and that is the motion I am supporting this afternoon.

Some hon. Members: Question.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Charles Lapointe (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, opposition members made it extremely easy for me today, but probably because they wanted to prevent me from paying tribute to a colleague and friend of mine, the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie). I want to tell him my hope that this pre-election period goes on for many more months so I can continue to have the pleasure of working with him and benefit from everything I learn in his interventions which are always full of wisdom and humour. I appreciate his constant concern for the better-being not only of Canadians but, as he has shown in this motion today, of all inhabitants of the globe, and I believe we have in our colleague from Hillsborough one of those new beings or one of those people we call citizens of the world.

Ever since he first sat in the House of Commons, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has always endeavoured to bring an international dimension to the debates of this House. Unfortunately, I think we do not have enough opportunities to discuss those subjects. I was struck by one of the things he said in his intervention today. He referred to that false proverb which says that "Charity begins at home." I believe as he does that it is imperative, even in a period of economic difficulty, that we use our minds, our hearts and our financial or technical means to help our brothers in other countries of the world going through worse economic difficulties than we are.

Mr. Papproski: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order. The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business has now expired. It being five o'clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.