

the tendency to overreact whenever prices on financial markets fall by 1 or 1½ per cent.

Perhaps the current energy crisis will give us one more reason to justify the present very slight effort made by most industrialized countries to help the underdeveloped nations. And yet the economic and energy potential of Canada and that of our neighbours to the south at the international level is enormous. Under all forms of energy Canada is currently using the equivalent of eight and a half tons of coal per capita per year. This is twice the consumption of western Europe and U.S.S.R. It is 160 times that of Asia and Africa.

We are among the most advanced and richest countries in the world. Proportionally, we are producing and consuming more than any nation in the world. Proudly and jealously, we are showing off our wealth to the world.

As a highly scientifically, technologically and technically developed country, Canada with a few other privileged nations has a major responsibility towards the international community and refusing it might have catastrophic consequences for the entire world.

Because of the enormous development of communications in most leading countries, it is no longer possible not to know what is going on at the other end of the world. Every day the underprivileged countries are apprised of our actions.

Obviously, we must admit that poverty is not only the most serious problem of this decade but also the most serious of the twentieth century. People are starving in the midst of affluence.

There is no way this problem can be solved through philanthropic solutions. Individual solutions are of no avail. No campaign against starvation calling for people's charity is efficient.

Underdevelopment is a political, economic and social problem that will not be solved without thorough and radical transformations in the economic, social and mental structures of peoples.

If Canada must constantly meet one of the greatest challenges that ever was, that of living close to a giant while keeping its political, economic and cultural identity, along with our American neighbours and a few other privileged nations of the earth, we are faced with the greatest challenge of the century and perhaps of history: helping the Third World escape the vicious circle of underdevelopment. Without being pessimistic, we must recognize that world peace is impossible when two thirds of mankind are starving.

If the often remarkable successes and feats of Canadians at home have helped enormously in making our country one of the most advanced in many fields, it is imperative that Canadians as a nation give particular attention to poorer and less fortunate countries.

● (1500)

[English]

Mr. Maurice Strong, former president of the Canadian International Development Agency, in one of his speeches declared:

*The Address—Mr. Irénée Pelletier*

There are three overriding influences determining our age, one is the space race, one the nuclear arms race and the third, the development race; Canada has no role to play in the first two, but in the one of the developing countries we can be a major power. We know what development means because we have done it here ourselves.

[Translation]

The future of the international community will depend on what rich countries will do to assist the poor ones.

Through rather complicated calculations based on realistic data and time projections, A. P. Thirnall has tried to establish how long Third World countries would take to catch up with the existing per capita income in Common Market countries. The results give food for thought.

In order to equal the existing income in countries of the European Economic Community, Peru would need 359 years, Uganda 356 and Pakistan 1,350. And the per capita income of the Common Market countries is much lower than ours.

Mr. Eppler, Minister of Cooperation of The Federal Republic of Germany, stated recently that the efforts of the rich countries for the economic and social development of poor countries have been so far much too limited and without any follow through and he stated the following:

Aid to the Third World is not a hobby for a few mislead idealists, an indulgence bought to set one's conscience at rest, a compulsory drill for bored politicians, a guarantee of exports for industrialists—but an ambitious attempt to try and make life a little more bearable for all on the "earth" space ship in order to stop it from becoming unbearable for all—an investment for a common future because that future will be common or will not be.

Economic and social development of underdeveloped countries, without being an absolute guarantee for peace in the world, would help considerably to develop greater solidarity and consequently truer international security. On May 29, 1968, the right hon. Prime Minister stated in a speech delivered in this House on the subject of Canada's participation in international co-operation, and I quote:

We accept as a major responsibility of top priority Canada's participation in the program for the economic and social development of developing countries. We will be looking at all possible means to increase the value of our aid programs by concentrating on areas and projects where our bilingualism, our own know-how, and our experience, resources and means make an efficient and truly Canadian contribution possible.

Mr. Speaker, Canada's international effort in recent years increased steadily and I am convinced we must maintain the present progress.

While continuing our efforts towards the economic and social development of our own country we should not forget our responsibilities and duties towards those who share this small planet with us.

On October 4, 1965, before the General Assembly of the United Nations His Holiness Pope Paul VI after stating that development was the new name for peace and modern technology could contribute considerably to the solution of some of our most serious problems, concluded his statement in the following manner:

[English]

Now the hour for a halt is upon us, a moment of meditation, of reflection, almost of prayer; a moment to think anew of our common origin, our history, our common destiny. Never before has there been such a need for an appeal to the moral conscience of man as there is today, in an era marked by such human progress. For the peril comes