

Supply—External Affairs

development. These figures show aid for development expressed in American dollars. They relate to the year 1962: France \$20.93—that is per person; the United States of America \$19.17; Germany—that is, the federal republic—\$7.75; the United Kingdom \$7.80; Canada \$2.66. Mr. Chairman, the *Globe and Mail* of October 7, 1963 says:

Canada is still one of the black sheep of the western world in the proportion of national wealth devoted to foreign aid. Even on the most favourable basis of calculation, we are channelling into aid programs only about one third of 1 per cent of our gross national product, or approximately \$135 million a year. Of the 20 countries in the organization for economic co-operation and development, only Denmark rates lower than Canada in the provision of aid.

They conclude their editorial comment by saying:

Mr. Martin should fight hard the good fight for increased foreign aid in the knowledge that he has public opinion behind him.

I feel, with great sincerity, that this is one area at which we must take a very close look.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Matheson: Of course.

Mr. Churchill: Is the basis of comparison the same?

Mr. Matheson: No. I am sure that is a very proper and appropriate comment, Mr. Chairman. I have had an assurance from the Secretary of State for External Affairs that some countries are taking advantage of other kinds of contribution which we, in our circumstances, do not include.

Mr. Aiken: Portugal, for example.

Mr. Matheson: Yes, and France. But, no matter on what basis we make the comparison, our contribution is not nearly good enough. I have put similar questions on the order paper relating to defence, because I am one of those who feel very strongly that the contribution we make to our alliances is something that runs parallel, to some extent, to the matter of foreign aid. We are not even making a very substantial contribution in the matter of defence, in comparison with some of our more important allies. I think this is of critical importance. May I, though, address these remarks to an area in which I think we could make a very sizeable and important contribution. When one considers the conclusions reached by Barbara Ward and others who have studied this subject over the years, it is evident that a great many of these foreign aid programs are not achieving the results intended. The population explosion in some countries is such that no matter what is done

[Mr. Matheson.]

by way of foreign aid little can be accomplished to bring large benefit to the people. Perhaps other means will have to be adopted to accumulate capital so that people may move to a higher plateau of progress. Certainly, there are other areas where great work can be accomplished if there is concentration. Barbara Ward says:

For three hundred years the white race has enjoyed a dominant position in the world. Its members were able to stamp their prejudices across the face of the globe because they were, in fact, on top.

When we think of the recent tragic happenings in Dallas and of other unfortunate incidents to which reference has been made by distinguished members of this house it occurs to me that perhaps Canada has a moral responsibility as well as a political interest in becoming involved in these great racial problems of the world. Where would it be possible to do this? Many who are authorities on this subject say the one place in the world where we could hope to make the greatest contribution is in the Caribbean area.

Mr. Byrne: Would the hon. member permit a question? Does he not know that while he was away attending a conference we did increase our foreign aid by \$70 million?

Mr. Matheson: I was happy to read that. I read that, I think, in two foreign newspapers. May I refer to a comment by Dr. Doris Johnson. She says:

Canada is missing out in the Caribbean. This country ought to be in the forefront in providing aid for the Caribbean area. Russia has been very active assisting underdeveloped countries and I would like to see Canada's Colombo plan extended to cover educational improvements in this hemisphere.

I am aware of what Canada is doing in respect to the Colombo plan. With respect to the West Indies assistance program, the ministry has been good enough to supply answers in detail with respect to people, places and work done. I am aware of what is being done with respect to the special commonwealth Africa aid program, the commonwealth technical assistance program, the program of educational assistance for independent French speaking African states, and, in a slightly different category, the commonwealth scholarship and fellowship program. But there is one area which would respond more rapidly than any other to a sharp increase in our aid program, and that is the Caribbean. I believe there is a necessity for Canada to bring about a special relationship with our commonwealth neighbours in the West Indies, an association which would be as close and as helpful as any kind of political union. I am not talking about federation. I am talking about involvement—about intimate personal