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yet adopted an extensive set of conventions and recommendations and when the membership of the ILO was still relatively small. Today, I suggest the balance of the conference in this respect needs to be re-examined.

It is true that the ILO has a committee on application, but it has more work than it can handle. It can but scratch the surface of the problem of implementation. The Canadian Government suggested to the ILO governing body, earlier this year, a possible way of improving the situation, namely that the conference agenda should periodically include an examination of important ILO conventions or groups of conventions. This would not supersede but supplement the work of the committee on application. The purpose would be to analyze the world situation with respect to the objectives of these conventions, to determine their degree of implementation, to examine the obstacles to be overcome if these objectives are to be realized, and to propose activities the ILO might undertake to bring about their more efficient implementation. I trust the governing body will give favourable consideration to this proposal which I firmly believe would strengthen the usefulness of the ILO and improve conditions of labour in the broadest sense of the term.

If those who participate in the work of the ILO wish to achieve justice for workers more than annual rhetoric is required. We may look progressive politically if each year we adopt new and broader standards as declarations of principle.

If, however, we are genuinely interested in improving working conditions, then we must recognize that there are vast areas of this planet where not even the most basic standards and rights proclaimed by the ILO years ago are being implemented.

Yesterday, the London *Financial Times* outlined the continuing refusal of the South African Government to provide either equal or integrated training facilities for black workers and it is evident that many black workers there may not be receiving wages above the poverty line.

There are any number of other examples of governments that are violating the most basic rights of workers. For these reasons, I believe more of our work should be directed at achieving world-wide compliance with the principles we have already adopted rather than too much preoccupation with highly publicized declarations of new standards.

I hope too that the Director-General will give serious early consideration to a proposal made to the conference earlier this week by the Government representative of the United States. He urged that a study be undertaken with respect to minimum international labour standards and an analysis was proposed which would determine what role the ILO should play in any future system of minimum standards. There is no need to elaborate further at this stage but Canada not only supports this proposal but also will be ready to co-operate fully with the Director-General in the carrying out of this important and potentially very significant review.

We live in times of which it has been said that change is the only constant factor. The

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