

## COLOMBO PLAN

If I may leave the United Nations and go to the Colombo Plan, I doubt, Mr. Speaker, whether there is any single task in the international field which Canada has undertaken that should receive greater approval and endorsement from Canadians of all walks of life and all political persuasions. No reasonable man could doubt the benefits which this type of enterprise is bringing....

Two of my colleagues in the Government have recently been in South and South-East Asia, the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell) and the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Browne). They have returned to Ottawa, and from each of them I have heard of the unceasing struggle of the undeveloped countries in that part of the world to raise their standards of living. The hon. member for St. John's West, who attended in my place the Saigon meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Colombo Plan, can testify to the benefits that have accrued from Canada's investment in these particular projects.

These grants, hon. members of the House - and I say this from the bottom of my being - are not hand-outs. We should really think of them as helping hands. There is another feature, members of the House, about our investment in the Colombo Plan. Famine, distress and low standards of living create the seed-beds of unrest and indeed could create - and in some instances have done so - the seed-bed of war. It worries me to talk in this vein, but if anyone wants to talk about these matters in mere monetary terms, I would offer a good argument and, I think, a conclusive one that in time these countries in which we are making investments will become good customers and provide much opportunity for Canada. But I put that suggestion forward in second or third place.

As some hon. members of this House know, particularly the hon. member for Algoma East (Mr. Pearson), the Colombo Plan was a concept initiated and brought about in the Commonwealth. Here is another instance of the Commonwealth creating a nucleus which in due course produced a strengthened, forward-looking and beneficial international enterprise. In the routine aspect of carrying forward the programme under the Colombo Plan there always has had to be and there will have to be discussions with engineers, administrators and economists. Then there will have to be discussions with the countries to whom help might be offered, as to their needs. When decisions in that regard are made, Mr. Speaker, we will of course report to the House.

On November 22 in this session of Parliament the Prime Minister informed the House that the Government will seek Parliamentary approval of an appropriation for 1958-59 of \$35 million. The estimates that will be considered in a few days provide for a contribution of \$34,400,000. We are proposing an increase of \$600,000 for 1958-59.