

Financial Institutions

the riding of Manicouagan being more or less on the same parallel as his, that on that level we should get along very well.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to speak to this particular bill, namely Bill C-130, because I want to explain to the people of Canada, including the Members of this House, why it is important to contribute financially to international institutions, in connection with aid to Third World countries. I also would like to speak as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, because often, when the subject of financial contributions by industrialized countries to Third World countries is discussed, people tend to think that exploitation is involved. That is an aspect I would like to discuss this afternoon. Furthermore, I shall be co-operative and try to be very brief and not take forty minutes just for the sake of using up my allotted time. On the other hand, I feel it is important that in a debate like this one, we should do our utmost to explain to the public, in a positive manner, what the Government can do within the framework of international co-operation with Third World countries.

Mr. Speaker, first I shall describe the direct relationship between industrialized countries and Third World countries at the technological level. When a country like Canada proceeds to invest funds in one of the regional banks, whether it is in Africa or in the Caribbean or Asia, the purpose is to provide funds for projects of a social or economic nature in countries unable to provide funding themselves. It is important, first of all, to remember when these funds are distributed, that \$10 million in a regional bank in a given country can be used to implement projects worth \$100 million. And in the countries receiving these funds, Canadian technology can be used to help Third World countries that need it. I would like to point out for the benefit of the House that for several years, Canadian companies have been working in partnership with Third World countries to help develop those same countries. I am thinking of Lavalin in Montreal which operates in countries all over the world. I could mention SNC and the technology exported by Bombardier, Hydro Quebec and the Science Council of Canada. These funds and services simultaneously benefit both the lending country and the receiving country. Unfortunately, this aspect of co-operation between Third World countries and industrialized countries is seldom brought up. However, Mr. Speaker, it is very important to achieve a balance, so that Third World countries are not exploited and countries like the United States and Canada or other industrialized countries do not take advantage of their knowledge to make windfall profits as a result of the very development operations that form the nucleus of international development.

Mr. Speaker, with Bill C-130, Canada will be able to continue to play its peaceful role but also educational role as a transmitter of skills to Third World countries. That is what is so important. It is not simply a matter of investing funds and exploiting countries. It is a matter of developing skills and

developing minds, to help Third World countries become the architects of their own development. This is fundamental, and I want to emphasize this to the public, so that it will be better able to follow this debate, since often the terms being used seem artificial and very technical and the language rather obscure, understood only by professionals and experts. I may add that by engaging in funding at the level of regional banks in certain Third World countries, industrialized countries are contributing to the development and advancement of this entire planet. In wealthy countries such as Canada and the United States, even if we are going through difficult times as far as the economy is concerned, we must do our part to help these countries and their people. This is something we must not forget.

The second aspect I want to discuss, is that through research funds, through funds that are passed on directly to these countries, we are also contributing to international peace. It is very sad to see the total lack of proportion between the situation in some countries on this planet and other, highly developed countries. This despite the fact that the funding provided under Bill C-130 at that level involves very substantial amounts. I see the parliamentary secretary to the Secretary of State (Mr. Bossy) who explained in his speech the peaceful goals of international co-operation. Often, Hon. Members have an opportunity to travel on missions to see for themselves what is happening in these countries. I am reminded of Nepal, to give an example where Canadian money has been used to fund irrigation projects to help the people not so much expand, as actually establish new farmlands, because there had been nothing there before. Today, 3,000 people in Nepal can now make a living from a given piece of land. That is significant and it was done with Canadian funds.

• (1620)

Another example is the islands in the Caribbean, where much work is being done with Canadians of all origins. Technology has made it possible to reach people at home, and subsequently, industries are established which benefit both the receiving and the donor country, as I explained earlier. These are aspects of co-operation between rich countries and less developed countries that are often forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I know time is running out, and I do not wish to dwell too long on the subject, but there is another factor I wish to emphasize and that is education, because when we talk about international development, we often refer to tangibles such as raw materials, and we tend to forget that these funds can also finance training for young people in those countries. In committee or in the House itself, we often tend to discuss general policy, but it is also important to determine what the direct and concrete impact will be of our international aid.

After all, perhaps we should be most concerned with helping minds, in the medium and long term, because if we want to