

goals of the Bretton Woods Agreements. This, together with the weakening support for multilateral development institutions, must continue to be addressed, not only by Government but also by Parliament. I was beginning to detect that when the Conservative Party was in Opposition, and particularly in the words of the Hon. Member who is now the Minister of Finance. Of course, I do not detect that in the words of Ambassador Roche, and in the weakening support for multilateral development institutions on the part of the Reagan administration. Therefore, I would urge that this not be the last debate we have on any international financial institution.

The amendment—which I would say is the only one with which we are having serious problems—will no longer make it possible to replenish funds in international financial institutions by an Act of Parliament. From now on those funds will only be authorized in the Estimates. That is a backward step. I am sorry that step was taken in connection with the regional development banks in March of 1983. I would like to see that rectified. I hope when this Bill goes to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, that we will move to restore the Act to its earlier form, as far as parliamentary approval is concerned. I know that a member of the NDP will propose amendments to that effect.

There is not a lot we can do in this Parliament to improve the operation of the international financial institutions, the World Bank, the IMF, the regional development banks and so on. However, we can draw to the attention of Parliament some of the deficiencies which we feel exist in the operation of those institutions and some of the problems which they are creating for the developing world. In addition, we can urge the Canadian Government to do everything it can, not only to participate in and strengthen the institutions, but to ensure that those institutions are working for the well-being, growth, development and advancement of the less developed countries of the world.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 45, it is my duty to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre)—Regional Economic Expansion (a) Domtar—Negotiation of solutions between Prime Minister and Premier Lévesque (b) Domtar—Minister's position; the Hon. Member for Egmont (Mr. Henderson)—Agriculture (a) Potato inspection fees (b) Request for postponement; the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy)—Federal-provincial Fiscal Arrangements (a) Size of equalization payments (b) Request for changes in formula.

Bretton Woods Agreements Act

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENTS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs. McDougall that Bill C-30, an Act to amend the Bretton Woods Agreements Act and to repeal the International Development Association Act and amend certain other Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to address my comments in support of Bill C-30, an Act to amend the Bretton Woods Agreements Act and to repeal the International Development Association Act and amend certain other Acts in consequence thereof.

The Bill has three main parts. The first part is housekeeping, concerning the consolidation of legislative authority for the three affiliates of the World Bank group; that is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association and the International Finance Corporation, to be brought under one Act. In fact, this Bill repeals the Act which relates to the International Development Association and incorporates all the references and agreements to that association into the Bretton Woods Agreements Act.

The second matter dealt with in the Bill is the question of providing legislative authority for Canada's participation in the International Finance Corporation—the IFC. Of course, that is something, as the Hon. Member for New Westminster—Coquitlam (Ms. Jewett) raised a few moments ago, which is in question in the House; that is, the authority for the Government to raise money in that connection. That goes back to a very old principle. In fact, it relates back to the time of King Charles I of England and the whole issue of who had the right to rule—the King as a divine right; or Parliament. The principle enshrined in this bill is that of the Government being accountable to the people of the country through its representatives, the Members of the House.

The third matter dealt with in the Bill, which the Hon. Member for New Westminster—Coquitlam also raised as a matter of concern, is the modification of the means by which parliamentary approval for providing financial assistance to the World Bank groups is obtained. The authority for those expenditures will now be done, on an annual basis, through the Estimates, rather than through amendments to the Act. Of course, that will not eliminate the right of the Opposition or Private Members of the House to examine the amount of money being allocated for that purpose. The Estimates will still go before committees of the House. This will give Members of Parliament an opportunity to examine them closely. If there is a substantial change in the direction or policy of the World Bank group, obviously it will require a further amendment to the Act. That will mean that another Bill will have to