

*External Aid*

In another connection, I should like to say that Canada is not the guardian angel of the whole world. To hear some of the members speak of the problems in Nigeria, Biafra, Africa, Czechoslovakia, Russia, of the French students, of those of Quebec and Toronto, and Vancouver, one would think that the government of Canada should solve them all.

Canada is still growing and it has not yet reached maturity. Proof of this is that we still have growing pains and, like a good father, the government of Canada is awaiting the outcome, knowing full well since that we are still at the growing age, that we will know better days and that everything will one day become orderly.

As regards family planning, my colleague said the Canadian government or other governments dissociated themselves from this important question. Yet they could do this through certain organizations. If we intend to deal with it, we will have to consider its legal aspect. We can certainly not act in an illegal way and try to apply one of our laws in a foreign country. We would have, first of all, to amend the Criminal Code and I think we are coming to that, especially in the field of birth control.

It was said, moreover, that this problem belonged to the external aid program and that this organization could do something in that field. But it does not behoove such an organization to deal with problems of that kind. There is available a very well developed agency called the World Health Organization to which Canada has contributed financially. Many countries are making studies about health needs throughout the world. I think, therefore, that one day, through the World Health Organization, we should try to bring help to other countries in that field, if we can. We might be able to radiate in the world through that agency, as we have often done, especially in Lagos where one of the most modern schools of anaesthesiology in the world was set up thanks to our government's co-operation.

• (6:20 p.m.)

We did not give any money but we supplied the personnel and the equipment. We simply taught them how to do things and they learned very quickly, so that Canadians were able to withdraw from the program. That undertaking was launched by the University of Toronto and today it has become one of the best schools of anaesthesiology in Africa.

Canada can give assistance, in various ways, in the field of family planning, which

presents a very delicate problem, since it relates to the very privacy of the individual. Up to recent years, man was not especially concerned with the problem of his reproduction. In fact, nature ensured some sort of balance. There were illnesses, outbreaks of contagious diseases, wars and a very high rate of infant mortality. It must be said also that the population in the year 1600 took 250 years to double, but this has completely changed today. Formerly, when people wanted a family of two children, they had to have four or five, because of the high rate of infant mortality. So the increase in the world population was slow. Now, there is a population explosion because our sanitary measures and preventive and prophylactic methods have enabled man to develop tremendously.

In the Middle Ages, it was necessary to have five children to be sure to keep one or two, and to reach a decent average.

There is another factor which should be considered. It is pointed out in an article which my colleague, Dr. Mongeau of Montreal, the president of the Family Planning Association was kind enough to give me.

There is also a quite important physiological need for family planning. The Criminal Code should be amended as soon as possible to allow family planning which is urgently needed in 1968.

Nowadays, large families are no longer necessary, because we know that human life has been considerably extended thanks to modern technical and medical methods. It is now established that a woman who bears a child, needs 2 years to recover. The former custom of having children every 8 or 9 months, is out-of-date. In fact such a practice can have harmful psychological and physiological effects on the mother and I think that in 1968, it is the duty of young married couples to practise family planning. It is absolutely necessary that the mother should recover, physically as well as physiologically before thinking of having another child.

We know that nowadays, it is quite a psychological problem for a husband and wife to live together, and practise continence. I know that some members use without moderation a fruit that is no longer forbidden to them. That every appearance of the man in the house should entail the birth of a child nine months later, is a thing to be avoided. Some light psychological traumas must be prevented, because the strange thing about family planning is that it is always related to love.