

North, for the West, for Canada in meeting the people's needs in the Third World and the South.

I think that our constituents are not very interested in the matter. They have heard too much about it in the past. They have been told that there was a hunger problem in the world, that they had a moral responsibility, that they should not let such things happen as human beings. That is quite true. But what is important in politics is to convince our political, social and economic agents across Canada, in all walks of life, that it is in the best interests of Canada and the western world to take part in the changes that are going to happen, like it or not.

Mr. Speaker, for years, ever since the beginning of mankind, there has been change in various parts of the world throughout the evolution of mankind. You cannot stop the aspirations of people who want to be free, to develop themselves and have better opportunities. Like it or not, change is bound to take place, and if we fail to act now—it is always too late to act in such situations, but if we do not grab the opportunity—At the present time, there seems to be a momentum, a desire at least in some parts of the world, both in the North and in the South, to initiate a process of discussions and negotiations. That is the important thing.

I think we should take the opportunity of being partners in that changing process because, if we do not, in any event, Mr. Speaker, the change will take place and we will have to respond later on. We should learn from the past, from the history of humanity, the recent history of the past 30 or 40 years in almost every area of the world. Emerging powers, whether political, economic or merely social, were not always recognized as such. But the mere fact that they were not acknowledged for what they were does not mean that those people did not continue to strive for their freedom and independence. The end result is that the Western world, at times embarrassed, had to respond to the changes involved. We say in our report, Mr. Speaker, and I am glad to see the government accepted that recommendation, that we must be positive agents in this changing process.

● (2040)

[English]

I would like to deal with two aspects of the whole issue of the North-South dialogue as it is emerging this year. I would also like to deal with aspects of international development and co-operation, which I believe are most important, not because I believe they are exclusively important or because other issues are not important, but because I want to be brief. I want to give other members an opportunity to speak.

If I were asked what would be the most important event of this year in international development and co-operation, with regard to North-South dialogue, I would say first that the North and the South must make compromises to agree on a process. People do not realize that the institutions are not yet at the point of discussing substance. That is bad enough.

International Relations

So the first point I would like to make is that we must agree on a process. There must be a process of global negotiations this year which will work. There will be disagreements in substance, but we must learn and try to manage the disagreements and move forward with some action.

There are two policy aspects with which we must deal urgently. There is the food problem, both the question of food production and security of supply, and the energy question. These two matters are very much related.

I would like to quote from two passages from the report of the Parliamentary Task Force on North-South Relations. At page 48 of the French section it says:

[Translation]

World grain supplies have fallen to 14 per cent of all grain consumed in 1980-81, bringing them down to about the same level they were during the 1972-73 food crisis. Imagine.

Eight years later we are back at the 1972-73 levels.

Production has dropped and it is expected that prices will increase 20 to 30 per cent.

The report also states, Mr. Speaker, that in some regions of Africa especially, food production increases at a slower rate than population growth.

That is one of the most urgent issues. Also, the energy question is related to this because unless we help developing countries, which are importers of oil, finance their balance of payment deficit, which is huge, these countries may face balance of payment deficits of around \$80 billions. That is a huge amount, Mr. Speaker. Eighty billion dollars. There is no way any corporation, or any Third World government can be expected to solve its food production problems when it must find \$80 billions to finance its balance of payment deficit.

Bangladesh, for example, must spend 70 per cent of its foreign exchange to buy the oil it needs. Most of the poorest countries, which are oil importers, must spend on the average 50 per cent of their foreign exchange to buy oil. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, world organizations, especially the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund must realize that unless we go ahead with this energy affiliate idea—

[English]

What is most important to me is that the world institutions and the governments of the North try to take an active part in the summits of this year, not only in the summits but in the negotiations of the central institutions themselves.

I would again like to quote from the report of the Parliamentary Task Force on North-South Relations at page 57. I believe it is important to put this passage on the record, since it is not realized to what extent the problem of energy deficiency exists in the Third World. The problems of high balance of payments deficits which stifle the efforts of poor countries in food production are not realized. I read the following from page 57:

The oil importing developing countries are experiencing severe difficulties in this new energy situation. Many poor countries are now entering the phase of