

in the interests of both exporting and importing countries. It will protect the interest of Canadian consumers in the event of excessive prices, such as occurred in 1963, and at the same time will benefit many developing countries, including those of the Commonwealth Caribbean, by improving the returns from one of their chief exports. The government fully supported the negotiation of this agreement, which represents a major achievement of international co-operation.

[English]

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, the house is interested in hearing this report on the United Nations sugar conference. I am at a loss to know why it has taken six years for this conference to be reconvened after it had lapsed in 1962. I wonder why Canada did not make a greater effort to have this conference called and concluded long before now. This report does not tell us what is the government's stand on this matter. It simply says that Canada has agreed with other nations to enter into negotiations. As I understand it, Canada has until some time in December to decide whether to sign it.

In the past Canada has not been a signatory to this world sugar agreement. I do not understand why. It seems as though we have been more willing to buy sugar on the open market as cheaply as we can from whomever we can including Cuba, and that we have not considered those Commonwealth friends of ours in the Caribbean who produce sugar and have been eking out a very meagre existence from the sale of sugar. I am sure the people in the Caribbean would much sooner receive a fair price for their sugar production than be given a handout in the form of external aid.

I hope therefore, when the time comes to sign this proposed document, Canada will see fit to become a member of the world sugar market.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with the hon. member for Wellington who has just spoken, in welcoming this announcement. I do not claim to be an expert on the subject of sugar, but we all know that sugar is an important commodity for consumers. The minister in making his statement emphasized the value of stability of prices and supplies for consuming or importing countries such as Canada.

I should like to emphasize the importance of this commodity to the exporting countries. We all know of the tremendous poverty which exists. Among the countries which are

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suffering from extreme poverty are those which are producers of sugar supplies. Any stabilization under a national agreement would be of very great importance to these countries.

We therefore welcome this announcement. We hope the government will proceed to deal favourably with the proposal which as we see it will be of benefit to all concerned in this matter. We hope this will be the precursor of more international arrangements. The deep problem of poverty in the world will not be solved by handouts alone, although economic aid is important. It will be solved by expanded trade, and this is the way to achieve it.

• (11:20 a.m.)

SUPREME COURT ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING APPEAL PROCEDURES

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (for the Minister of Justice) moved the first reading of Bill No. S-8 (from the Senate), to amend the Supreme Court Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

EXTERNAL AID

NIGERIA—DELAY IN USE OF HERCULES AIRCRAFT—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 26

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to move the adjournment of the house under standing order 26 for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the urgent need of making Canadian Hercules aircraft immediately available to the churches and other relief organizations now engaged in flying supplies from Sao Tomé to Biafra in order to provide urgently needed supplies to the starving children in that area.

Perhaps I may address the Chair on the question of the urgency of debate. I am well aware that what is now to be discussed is not the subject matter of the motion but the question of urgency of debate. I believe I can establish this urgency. I am well aware that this matter is generally under discussion by the standing committee on external affairs and national defence, but I intend to point out to Your Honour that the specific emergency which is dealt with in this motion is under the immediate control of the government, and cannot await the deliberations of that committee.