

which are often supported by the United States and, unfortunately, which are also often supported by policies which are being advocated by the International Monetary Fund.

I would like to see members of the Conservative Party join with us in expressing concern about the debt crisis rather than lining up on the other side.

**Mr. Dick:** You're an asshole, Mike. You don't know what you're talking about.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I believe the Associate Minister of National Defence should withdraw that word which I am sure is unparliamentary.

**Mr. Dick:** Whatever is the truth I would like to withdraw the word, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to join in this very important debate on Bill C-126. As my colleagues have already pointed out, this debate gives us a very important opportunity to consider the profound problems which have arisen in the developing countries in these last years, problems which began to develop in the 1970s and have during this decade reached tragic dimensions for country after country.

We here in Canada, whether Members of Parliament or so many of our citizens are often insulated from the situation that exists. However, I recognize in my own constituency of Thunder Bay—Nipigon some of the smaller communities, particularly those which are Indian reserves, about which the Canadian Government has done so little, that the Canadian people have failed so badly to recognize the challenges of development. There certainly are areas in Canada of misery. However, what has happened in one country after another of the so-called Third World during these last years is a tragic situation which the proposal of the Government has put before us will do little to resolve. In fact, one might say it will do nothing to resolve it. It may go some little way toward helping. But there is not here in these proposals any kind of a resolution.

After all, the Bill proposes to authorize contributions by Canada to an enhanced structural adjustment facility which will be operated within the International Monetary Fund-World Bank arrangements which date back to the Bretton Woods Conference of 1944. This facility, this pooling of a certain amount of western, industrial financial resources, to make available in the way of concessionary financing at very low interest rates to countries is on the right track. When it is such a limited facility, when it adds to the 2.7 billion in the way of special drawing right units that was put into an earlier facility in 1986, another 6 billion of these SDR units, an addition of some \$10 billion, we have only very limited action when we recognize that the debt of the developing countries in fact exceeds \$1 trillion U.S. My colleague, the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), has pointed out that it is \$1.25 trillion of debt.

#### *Bretton Woods and Related Agreements Act*

We in the Democratic caucus are profoundly concerned about the inadequacy of the arrangement. We are perhaps even more profoundly concerned about the failure of the G-7, the leaders of the industrial countries, including of course the Canadian Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), who in June of 1987 at the summit in Venice agreed to deal with the situation that faces us.

I am particularly concerned about the situation because of what has happened in sub-Saharan Africa and perhaps across the whole continent of Africa. We have among us of course people with various interests. My friend, the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap), has a profound concern about the Central American and Latin American situation. I had the enormous privilege as an undergraduate student 25 years ago last summer of spending the summer of 1962 in West Africa as an Operations Crossroads Africa participant in a student group of largely American students, with one Mexican student. I was the Canadian in the group as it happened.

The dozen of us spent a month in a work camp in northern Ghana. We spent additional time visiting other parts of Ghana. We also spent a few days in Nigeria as well. I will never forget those experiences, which were among the most formative of my life, in sharpening my perception of the lives and the history of various peoples. It was an enormously exciting time to be in West Africa. Those were the days of independence. The Black Star stood proudly on the tower in Accra and President Kwame Nkrumah anticipated independence in country after country in black Africa. There was such enormous hope about what independence would enable the African peoples to achieve. There was even then some recognition of the economic ties that these countries were still living within. Economic neo-colonialism was certainly one of the concerns expressed in those days. However, there was all the excitement about development in Africa 25 years ago.

We would gather at public events, hold hands in a circle and sing John Donne's *No Man is an Island*. There in the reminder of the unity that a Canadian later on put in the language of the global village was something of the personal experience sharing with Africans in their hopes. John Donne reminds us: "—and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee". I ask this afternoon in debating this particular proposal whether among us there is much recognition of the fact that the poverty, the distress, the disease, the degradation, the death of thousands, of hundreds of thousands—millions in the cumulative sense—of people around the globe in these various countries, recognition among us that the bell is tolling and that it has its terrible overtones and consequences for us if we fail to recognize that reality.

● (1350)

These countries which looked forward to a great future of development have ended up falling into what can simply be described as debt slavery. The Hon. Member for Spadina spoke of debt peonage which puts it into the language of Central America. Here are whole countries ground down into