

*Constitution*

meeting was sponsored by the International Parliamentary Union and the parliamentarians for a world order to which the hon. member has referred. Indeed, the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville, the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. McLean), and myself were present.

I may say in passing that we missed the company of the Secretary of State (Mr. MacDonald). If he had not been otherwise preoccupied with the things I see on his desk now, I am sure he would have been there too, for indeed the Secretary of State has been one of those parliamentarians who has taken a vigorous leadership role in the development of the world federalists parliamentary association. Indeed, that work owes much to him and his predecessors for developing it.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** It is in better hands now.

**Mr. Roche:** If it is not in better hands, it is in other hands at the moment.

However, before I leave the World Federalist Parliamentary Association, I remind the Secretary of State and others that the distinguished Dr. Frank Leddy, former president of the University of Windsor, will be addressing the annual meeting of the World Federalist Parliamentary Association on November 28 at 12.30 p.m. on these premises.

● (1630)

With all that said, we come now to the substance of what the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville is asking us to consider. Another reason for the timeliness of the remarks he made today is the forthcoming foreign policy review being conducted by the government in association with the special joint Senate-Commons committee which will be set up to consider the totality of the Canadian foreign policy. Indeed, the subjects he has drawn to our attention today—on which I will be commenting in more detail in a moment—are the kinds of subjects that should be considered by those who are charged with considering, in a parliamentary sense, what Canada's foreign policy ought to be as we head into the 1980s in a world that is going to be more discernably interdependent than it now is.

In the 1970s we have seen the kind of world that is emerging, indeed one could say exploding, the major trend of geopolitics affecting north-south relations, the emergence of China, the whole question of the Middle East, Southern Africa, the world economic system, the energy question, reallocation of resources, the sharing of resources. All these questions have had a major impact on whether or not our world can be made not only a safe place but a stable environment in which we and those who come immediately after us will live.

It is opportune for us to consider the questions that the hon. member has brought forward, but I have to say that it does not take constitutional reform or a new constitution in order to highlight the questions of promoting international peace and security—which is the first of the five specific comments the hon. member has made in his motion—because the present constitution does not impede the attaining of those goals. What is really necessary, before we become embroiled again in

the questions of constitutional reform, is to do a better job as government and Parliament in informing the Canadian people, in giving more attention here as a government, to those questions that are at the heart of world peace, security and justice in this changing world. That does not take constitutional reform.

When we consider the five goals that are being presented to us today in the motion, we must remember that those goals are in fact incorporated in the United Nations Charter which was, of course, subscribed to by Canada as a founding member and, I might say, as a leading member of U.N. We know that Canada has played a substantial role in the development of the United Nations.

While I welcome the motion put forward by the hon. member, indeed its consideration at the proper time and with proper provincial input into the questions of constitutional reform with respect to international obligations, I think it would be preferable to highlight at this moment the work of the United Nations as a body established in the international community to further the very goals which the hon. member and myself, and indeed our colleagues, want to see furthered. For you see, Mr. Speaker, however slow the pace, it is a certainty that the United Nations is already putting into place the beginnings of an international legal order.

The U.N. Declaration and Covenants on Human Rights—and I speak of economic and social as well as political and civil—provide, for the first time, humanity with a profound philosophical base expressed in practical terms. Here we have an official recognition, a world recognition, of the respect that ought to be accorded to every human being in the world in virtue of his humanity. In reaching out to the open seas and to outer space, the U.N. treaties today that we have at our service emphasize the common heritage of mankind.

The urgent needs of the world are being met by the vast extension of United Nations practical work, the programs in addition to the covenants which are pieces of paper. Eighty per cent of the United Nations effort and budget go into the development questions that are at the heart of the hon. member's motion today. Indeed, our daily life would grind to a halt without those international institutions which we now have in place regulating air transport, the control of epidemics, posts and telegraphs, weather reports, or the responsibility for satellites. All these are operations within the United Nations system, whether we consider U.N. activities in Geneva, in Vienna, in Nairobi, in New York or other places where U.N. commissions and boards are hammering out the infrastructure for the world community that is emerging before our eyes. So I do think we do not give the United Nations sufficient credit, nor do we give ourselves sufficient credit, as Canadians who have participated not only at the start of the United Nations but indeed in the old League of Nations, for recognizing the movement forward of humanity at this very moment.

I know that the world is in chaos in many respects. We are having just one indication today of the kind of chaos that exists in the world and that has affected the life of this government, indeed the life of the government of the United