

*Dominion-Provincial Relations*

the expenditures of the provinces and municipalities now equal those of the federal government. As I recall it, they are almost equal, one being slightly ahead of the other, and I forget which one it is. This reveals the fact that if we are going to have a sort of economic decentralization, which I think is vastly desirable in many fields, then we must make quite sure our federal government is going to expand itself vis-à-vis the operations of provincial governments. The two areas, of course, in which the government can expand itself are, one, domestically—and I do not intend to deal with that this afternoon because some of my colleagues are going to deal with possible programs in the domestic field—and, two, externally. I should like to dwell for a short while not only on the possibilities, not only on the opportunities but on the very heavy responsibilities that Canada has in the world of today for expanding our operations in the world outside.

Not long ago I sent to our external aid office to get a statement of all contributions that Canada has made to the welfare and development to the western world. Frankly, I was rather dismayed after having listened to the glowing words of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) which, in my opinion, did not quite say what I thought they said. They seldom do; and I should know better. However, I found actually our external aid program has only reached the dizzy height of \$53,700,000 out of a gross national product of \$43 billion in this country. This seems to be a rather picayune contribution. However, I am not basing my remarks on any philanthropic point of view, I am not basing them on any moral obligation, although they are there very plainly. I am basing these remarks on common sense and self-preservation.

I suggest to you that the secretary general of the United Nations was all too correct not long ago when he suggested that the cleavage between the underdeveloped areas in the world and the developed areas in the world was a much more dangerous cleavage than any ideological cleavage there may be between east and west. Frankly, I think it is disgraceful that 20 million people, with more resources at their command than the vast majority of the human race, who are continually boasting of their affluent society, whose government is forever boasting about how well the economy is working, are only prepared to go the distance of \$53,700,000 in this program of aiding the rest of the world.

I suggest to you if our government is prepared, at the same time it is prepared to

[Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

expand our economy domestically, to make substantial efforts to expand its operations abroad from the lavish and generous external program and the lavish loan program it has, there is no danger whatever of this opting out legislation destroying Canada. However, I have a strong suspicion that if we are not going to do something of this sort, then this kind of fiscal decentralization may lead to stagnation in Canada, if to nothing worse.

I should like to say a word or two on the question of this loan program, about which we heard so much from the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I see the minister is getting restive. I suggest to him that there is a very close link between this and the opting out legislation. If he wants me to argue the point, I will do so right now.

**Mr. Gordon:** Do not do it on my account.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I always like to please the minister.

**Mr. Gordon:** I thought we were on external aid at the moment.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I was, but I am now going to the loan program about which we heard so much from his colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I was particularly happy at the way in which this great government had decided it was going to double its contributions to the world. Then, I made a great discovery: I found that \$40 million had been allocated to these loans. None of it has yet been really granted, and the only thing that is of concrete value is the 100,000 tons of wheat to India. I am not even sure if that has gone as yet, or whether it is another little harbinger of spring that never seems to arrive. I suggest to you that this is a serious matter, in the light of the government's decision to encourage a substantial measure of fiscal decentralization. It may well be a very serious matter, in the hands of a timid government; and I am afraid it is in the hands of a timid government now. It is a government that shows almost a genius for ineptitude.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Pathological.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Pathological?—well, perhaps; it is something, anyway—the blind staggers, I suppose. This is a government that is always afraid to take a decisive step, that introduces a program with a great fanfare of trumpets, and when all the words are over we find it is something very, very modest. I suggest to you