

consequences for labour, women, indigenous peoples, and for the unemployed or partially-employed.

The general discussion opened with the expression of a broad variety of views. Several speakers stressed that Latin Americans must be given latitude to seek their own solutions. Even in Canada, there are significant regional disparities and a diversity of economic and social realities. In Latin America, the migration of people from rural to urban centres has created numerous social, economic, and environmental problems. Although everyone is aware of the skewed distribution of wealth in many Latin American countries, no one is certain how to address disparities or how to propose acceptable reforms directed to making the elites pay their share. Indeed, some nations such as Mexico appear to have developed a pattern of growing disparities in wealth and economic realities that illustrate extreme divergences between the rich and poor. One speaker wondered if the neo-liberal model had weakened the role of the state substantially, could its traditional roles be replaced by the market place?

Randall and other speakers cautioned against ideas and generalizations that address the Latin American nations as some kind of monolithic entity rather than quite different complex individual cases. For example, Ecuador with a low per capita income should not be considered in the same category as Argentina that has a much higher per capita income. Sophisticated discussion of Latin American issues demands a high level of background understanding about regional and national diversities, history, and socioeconomic development. Moreover, quite different knowledge of regional relationships is required from one region and country to another. One speaker cautioned against the old error of attempting to promote or extend North American or Anglo-Saxon models. Anthropologists and historians spoke on the theme of