

Inter-Parliamentary Union

to the Chair to be a completely new proposal. I will take the matter under advisement, which will give the hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Harvey) an opportunity to enter the debate. In the meantime I shall try to make a decision on the amendment or perhaps suggest an easier form to meet the will of hon. members.

Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, I certainly cannot do as well as the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean) and the hon. member for York North (Mr. Danson) when it comes to congratulating and thanking the people who made the trip to Helsinki such a fruitful and pleasant one. I would simply like to underline what they have said and express our thanks for the help afforded the delegation from Canada by His Excellency the Ambassador for Finland, particularly for the briefing he gave us before we left for Helsinki. Through him I would express our thanks to the Finnish parliamentarians and the people of Finland. Although we did not have an opportunity to meet them all, the contacts we made were warm and close.

Mr. Speaker, I shall devote my remarks directly and simply to the third commission of the conference on whose drafting committee I had the honour to serve. This commission was the one which dealt with economic relations.

• (1740)

I will begin my remarks by reading to the House part of the resolution which was presented to the conference by the Canadian delegation, a draft resolution submitted by the Canadian delegation on co-operation and collaboration between countries with regard to aid to developing countries. This resolution, to be fair, was one which was suggested primarily by the hon. member for York North and was familiarly known to the delegation as the "Danson doctrine." Although I had the honour of speaking to this resolution at the plenary conference and of working on it, I must give credit where credit is due. It is about the only credit that I can hand over in this partisan House, but it was a particularly non-partisan occasion and I am pleased to give such credit at this time. The resolution reads in part:

Believing that development can be successfully promoted through co-operative efforts and programs among developed countries, including countries having different economic and social systems,

Acknowledging the desirability of achieving reform of the international monetary system and of further liberalization of international trade,

Desirous of finding new means of reducing east-west tensions,

Recommends that participating delegations encourage their governments to co-ordinate, to the extent possible and in co-operation with developing countries, their national development assistance programs, and to seek to elaborate co-operative or joint development assistance projects.

I think the only fair thing I can do at this stage is to repeat some of the words that I used to address the plenary session in support of this resolution. We all understand, of course, that the meetings of the interparliamentary conference are not meetings of government and that the participants in the delegations go there not as representatives of their parliaments in totality but as representatives of the make-up of their parliaments. Therefore, if

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel).]

you detect a partisan tone I think you would agree that it was quite appropriate for these elements to be included.

When I addressed myself to the Canadian resolution I made the very obvious point that, of course, aid had to be co-ordinated and also that this aid had to be offered to the developing countries in collaboration with them. Most countries which have been involved in international aid have at least reached this degree of wisdom, that there must be international co-operation in the offering of aid and there must be consultation and collaboration with the developing countries in the offering of such aid.

I also pointed out that it was important for the developed countries of this world not to send with their aid what could be called a cultural under-burden. We have recognized that we must be careful about the ideological and political content of our aid, but at the same time we must not try to impose, through the aid that we offer, our values and our beliefs. Developing countries have a complete right to develop in their own way, to their own purposes and according to the nature of their historical existence. This is a rather important factor, if it is not an immediately evident one.

Then I made the point that no matter how generous the aid would be, no matter how internationally it would be co-ordinated and how sensitive it would be, it would nevertheless be insignificant if we were not prepared, as developed countries, to take a look at what we were doing in terms of the consumption of the world's resources. I quote from my remarks at this stage as follows:

However, aid is not solely a matter of what we give and how we give it, it is also a matter of what we take. We in North America, for example, consume over one-third of the world's energy and about one-half of the world's non-renewable resources, and yet we make up less than one-fifteenth of the world's peoples. World consumption of energy and resources will have to be co-ordinated and redistributed, for without this redistribution of consumption, the developing nations will forever keep falling behind the pace of the developed world, and whatever formal aid we proffer will never be more than a token amend for our guilt of greed.

It certainly shall not be easy for the developed world to reconsider and change its patterns of consumption, but this must be done . . .

We have spoken much of sovereignty in this conference, and rightly so, but we have to understand that the building of national sovereignty needs an economic base as well as a political one. The political base is the will of the people to nationhood, the economic base is that people's ownership or control of the material conditions of its existence. That is why we must begin to take those measures which must be taken to bring the ever growing power of the multinational corporation under national and international control. Should we fail to do so, we will find, when we have finally dismantled the suffocating political and military power blocs of this world, that we are confronted by a multinational system of power which lies beyond the parliaments we so value.

There was another element which I added and which I think is worth repeating here because it loomed very large in the deliberation of the commission, and of the committee particularly. I am not suggesting it is worthwhile repeating because I brought it in; it was brought in by several members. It was that we in the developed world in the northern part of the northern hemisphere had to consider seriously our whole approach to economic growth, because if we continue growing as much as we can to try to solve some of our economic problems, there is no way in which we can offer any real comfort or aid to the underdeveloped world.