

and conciliate. This also applies to the time when my hon. friends were in power.

An hon. Member: More Liberal propaganda.

Mr. Perrault: It is not Liberal propaganda, because it refers to a time when a previous government was in office.

• (8:20 p.m.)

I think it is particularly destructive when we come in this House and say about one another such things that would never be levelled at us by any other country or any other person. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the Secretary of State for External Affairs have had the most searching conversations with the Secretary General of the United Nations, U Thant, on the possibility of the United Nations considering this matter. Similarly, the Canadian permanent mission to the United Nations has consulted broadly on the prospects of United Nations initiative in this area. The Secretary General has stated publicly that he considers the decisions taken by the Organization for African Unity provide the framework for a just settlement of the civil war by peaceful means.

Let me again stress that I believe the Canadian people and the Canadian government are sincerely concerned about the tragedy which has befallen the people who live in this area. All political parties, indeed, are deeply concerned about the tragedy which has befallen Biafrans.

It is fair to say that those concerned about the question at the United Nations—and there are many—are convinced that daylight flights are essential if the children of Biafra are to be saved. Canair relief alone will not save enough lives. It is equally fair to say that the people who control Biafra do not seem to have a real interest in daylight flights, whatever their reasons and their motives. They have expended a great deal of energy in attempts to justify their rejection of a proposed agreement developed in very large measure by Canadians. They do not seem to have expended the same amount of energy in attempting to find an alternative way in which to bring relief to the starving. They maintain that they mistrust the federal military government, but both Canada and the United States have expressed willingness to assist in providing assurances to meet the Biafran fear of any military advantage flowing from the daylight flights agreement.

Alleged Failure to Aid Biafrans

Regardless of the statements we have heard today, the most effective way to deliver adequate supplies of relief to the starving youngsters of Biafra is by daylight flights. That position will be endorsed by any responsible nation at the United Nations. This method is more effective than any other that is available. At the United Nations one can find no support for the Biafran opposition to these flights. Daylight flying is safer, more planes can travel and the present confusion of night flights involving both relief and arms would be ended, with the daylight hours reserved for work of mercy. What is wrong with that kind of arrangement? Yet, Biafran leaders feel that risks remain. I think it is a supportable contention that when one's children are starving you accept certain risks in order that they will live. I have here a statement from the *New York Times* of yesterday, to the effect that the dying children get nothing and that this would be wasting food. I wonder why dying children are the first to be denied food.

I think it is fair to conclude that the Biafran authorities are, above all, concerned with the preservation of their regime, and that the mass starvation of the people about whom they profess to be concerned may be only a secondary consideration. Canadians should say to Nigerians and Biafrans that since they say they are interested, they should agree to a trial period to see how much relief can get through under the Canadian plan.

In conclusion may I say that Canadians are concerned with helping people. Since the formation of the United Nations Canada has dedicated itself to helping humanitarian causes throughout the world. It has done this in order to save lives in Palestine and in the Middle East. Canada has been the third largest contributor to saving lives in the Middle East. We were generous even during the period when our friends to my left formed the government. We are told the Canadian people are deeply concerned about the failure of this government to extend more aid through the church organizations. The question is whether that aid at some point in time is increased to these organizations, or whether Canada and other nations are successful in persuading the Biafran authorities to permit daylight flights, with Canadian aid channelled through the International Red Cross.

There is no disagreement in this House about the need to extend as much aid as we can. Especially at this Christmas season it is to be hoped that millions of Canadians will