

● (1620)

One may well ask why such a document should contain such a reference to the international order when in fact it perhaps might not have any direct influence on Canadian policy, we being a peace-loving people who have in any event been very co-operative in the international arena? We have been prominent in supplying, for instance, support for peacekeeping forces. We are generally known as one of the "good countries" in the world which is always prepared to try to help on the international scene.

However, to take such a view would ignore the symbolic value of a statement of this kind, and that, of course, is what is contained in a statement such as that in Bill C-60. The section to which we would wish to make an amendment if that bill were before us was entitled "Statement of Aims of the Canadian Federation". The authors of that statement of aims laboured hard to try to encompass in their wording all of the various symbolic aspects of the meaning of being a Canadian. I think what we are asking is whether we can really express ourselves as Canadians, in the sense in which we really are, without saying something about the international order too, given the fact that Canadians have played such a co-operative role in the world and undoubtedly will continue to do so.

So, if we are to express our reality as it is, then surely we owe it to ourselves and perhaps to the world to make this kind of statement in our fundamental document. It was Aristotle who said that a constitution is not just a way of organizing offices in the state. It is something much more than that. It is ultimately the principal means of stating the way of life of a people. That is just what I am suggesting here, that this fundamental document should express our way of life as it is, and our way of life in Canada surely does include a devotion to the principles of international law and a very strong desire on behalf of our people to act as good neighbours in the world.

In this sense I think it is extremely important that our fundamental constitutional document should state this. It should pay lip service to it. It should pay service to it by declaring it as an ideal to which the Canadian people aspire.

Mankind has in its long history been perhaps more motivated by symbols than by any of the hard realities of daily life, often perhaps because we wish to get away from those hard realities and sometimes, unfortunately, because unscrupulous leaders try to distract us from the hardships of some daily realities by using symbols as a way of extricating people's thoughts from their daily round.

Wars have been caused by symbols such as the concept of *Lebensraum*, Jenkin's ear, or whatever. Symbols have been matters of extreme importance in the history of mankind, and if we in Canada are to be expressing in a symbolic way what Canada is about, surely, a very important part of that expression is to say where we stand in relation to the rest of the world. No man is an island, no country can stand alone, and no country can express itself in a world which is as interdependent as everyone recognizes our world to be without expressing the relationship to the whole.

Constitution

These are the reasons, among others—and I know other hon. members such as the hon. member for Edmonton South will wish to state others—why the Parliamentary Association of World Federalists felt that this motion should be put for debate before the House. This is not a motion which has been appearing every year. It is not a traditional motion, as are many motions we see in private members' hours. I think some of those motions have been around for probably ten, 12 or 15 years. This is the first time this subject has been debated. We have put it on because we believe it is very important, and we want to bespeak the support of the House for it.

We want as strongly as possible to urge the government, if it should in the near future, I hope, be coming forward with new proposals on the Constitution of Canada, to recognize that this is one of the most important things to be stated in the aims of the Canadian federation.

I will now leave the rest of the time to other speakers. I merely want to say that I have been very grateful for the support I have been given in the ultra-national role, if I may put it that way, which the Canadian Parliamentary Association of World Federalists has assumed.

Mr. Douglas Roche (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. MacGuigan) should be commended for bringing forward this very important motion. He has done an ingenious thing here this afternoon by wedding two of his principal concerns in his career in Parliament, namely, his concern about world federalism and his concern about constitutional reform. He has brought those two concerns together in an admirable way, and I thank him for deepening the attention of the House about matters which go beyond the immediate crises and exigencies which occupy all our attention on a regular basis.

This debate is useful because it brings to the floor of the House of Commons a reflection of the work of one of the parliamentary associations to which all of us belong in one form or another. There are various conferences held in various parts of the world at regular periods. Very seldom do we have an opportunity to consider the findings of the parliamentary associations which are, at the very least, performing an educative function for members of Parliament on world conditions.

This debate gives me an opportunity to make a plea once more—as has been done in the past—to have the reports of parliamentary associations automatically referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence for its consideration, because I think it is in that way that a structured input of the findings of associations can benefit us all.

Today the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville has leaped forward, thanks to the luck of the draw, and has been enabled to bring forward a motion that is very timely, because he is also reflecting on a meeting which was held only last Friday at the United Nations in New York when members of Parliament from 31 nations took part in a discussion of global conditions, which occupied the attention of the United Nations. This