

of our investment. On the other hand, the Japanese get 20 per cent of their investments back in economic benefits for their country. This is why we had introduced a program to encourage Canadian businessmen to take a more active part in international development.

I shall close by saying that we support this bill.

[English]

Honourable senators, I spoke with the sponsor of this bill yesterday and we agreed that it does not need to be referred to committee. Therefore, I agree that the bill now receive second reading.

Hon. George van Roggen: Honourable senators—

The Hon. the Speaker: I draw the attention of honourable senators to the fact that if the Honourable Senator van Roggen speaks now his speech will have the effect of closing the debate on the motion for the second reading of this bill.

Senator van Roggen: Honourable senators, I have nothing to add to the remarks I made on moving the second reading of this bill, other than to thank Senator Asselin for his speech this afternoon and the additional information he gave honourable senators concerning this bill. I concur in what he said about the benefits that can flow back to Canada from our foreign aid programs. The spin-offs that come later can be very important to us.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

● (1520)

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Senator van Roggen: With leave, now—or at the next sitting.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Unless we are to have Royal Assent this evening, it should be at the next sitting.

Senator van Roggen moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting of the Senate.

Motion agreed to.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL CONFERENCE HELD AT NASSAU,
BAHAMAS

Hon. Frederick W. Rowe rose pursuant to notice of Thursday, November 4, 1982:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the Twenty-eighth General Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, held at Nassau, Bahamas, from 16th to 22nd October, 1982, and in particular to the discussions and proceedings of the Conference and the participation therein of the delegation from Canada.

He said: Honourable senators, I wish to make a brief statement on the Twenty-eighth General Conference of the

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held at Nassau, Bahamas, during the month of October 1982.

The Canadian delegation consisted of the following members of Parliament: Mr. Keith Penner, as leader; the Honourable Arthur Huntington, P.C.; Mr. Gordon Gilchrist; Mr. Roger Simmons; and Mr. Douglas Anguish—all three parties in Parliament being represented at the conference. The Senate was represented by the Honourable Martha Bielish and me.

In addition to this official delegation from the federal government, Canada was represented, *ex officio*, by the Honourable Gerald Ottenheimer, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Association, one of the two senior positions in that great organization. Canada was also represented by Dr. M. Foster, a member of the Executive Committee. I would also point out that all but one of the provinces had at least one representative. It is clear that Canada had a very strong representative delegation at this important plenary conference of the association.

All members of the parliamentary delegation from Canada contributed significantly and vigorously to the various debates. Since the verbatim account of the debates will be issued in the near future, I will make only brief reference to them at this time.

The opening speech on the topic of approaches to unemployment was given by Mr. Penner. Later in the conference, Mr. Penner also dealt with relationships between Parliament and the executive branch of the government. Mr. Huntington's main contribution was made in the debate on control and scrutiny of public finance by Parliament. Mr. Gilchrist dealt with security among small nations; and Messrs. Simmons and Anguish made important contributions to the panel discussions on energy and the environment, respectively.

Senator Bielish was able to draw on her vast experience of social problems, generally, and, in particular, on the rights of women. Her background in these matters enabled her to make an excellent contribution on the all-important topic of worldwide population control. My own contribution revolved around the general topic of human rights.

Exempting myself from my next observation, honourable senators, I feel duty-bound to report that members of the 46 other delegations repeatedly made formal and informal references to the quality of the Canadian delegation.

All of us from Canada were very pleased that our leader, Mr. Penner, was elected as a member of the Executive Committee. I was particularly pleased that the only standing ovation during the entire week-long conference was reserved for my fellow Newfoundlander, Mr. Ottenheimer, who, as chairman of the Executive Committee, delivered what everybody agreed was a remarkable and most eloquent closing address. For those who may not be aware of it, Mr. Ottenheimer is the Minister of Justice and Attorney General in the Peckford administration. I should add that he is a noted scholar, being a graduate of the Sorbonne and several other universities, and is well versed and fluent in seven languages.