

Supply—External Affairs

sending food to feed hungry Indonesians and on the other hand that the minister should carry out an expanded program of assisting Indonesians to gain an education.

Unless the hon. member for Oxford is assuming that all Indonesian students who would come to Canada would engage in abstract studies in the field of philosophy, the classics or something of that kind, I fail completely to follow his logic in suggesting that the training of students would not be assisting Sukarno in his war efforts. To follow through the logic of the member's argument, it does seem to me that if Indonesians come to Canada and acquire training in the fields of engineering, technology or any one of a dozen other fields one could mention, one can logically argue that directly or indirectly this could be a much more valuable contribution to Sukarno's war efforts than the providing of a little wheat to feed hungry Indonesians.

I felt constrained to make these few remarks in addition to those I made last night to emphasize again that I think the member for Oxford in this particular instance, despite his very laudable wish that we should indicate our desire to assist the people of Malaysia in bettering their situation and their way of life, and should take such steps as we can to protect them against incursions from without their country, is taking a completely illogical position in respect of what is proposed under the external aid vote in the estimates of the Department of External Affairs.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, the minister co-operated with us last night in arranging to have his estimates brought forward again today, by his obstruction which he carefully managed at a late hour, so I think it would be discourteous of us to dismiss him from the house after only a few minutes. Obviously he wanted to carry on with the discussion of his estimates.

I think this is a good idea, because he failed to clear up the situation with regard to Indonesia. Last night, in one of his unusually frank moments, he used these words as found on page 10296 of *Hansard*: "the continuous guerrilla attacks that have been made against Malaysia by Indonesia". So he has publicly acknowledged that press reports are correct and that continuous guerrilla attacks are being made by Indonesia against Malaysia. Then he went on to tell us about other commonwealth countries, Australia, Britain and New Zealand, assisting Malaysia. He told us that Australia could not participate in the Cyprus peace keeping force because of its

preoccupation with the danger in southeast Asia.

Now that we have the facts in front of us, how can we justify giving aid to Indonesia when Indonesia is causing trouble for one of the countries within the commonwealth? I know it is easy to argue that this wheat flour is meant for people who require food. Canada has taken the position over the years that we are prepared to assist needy people around the world, and we do give quite a bit of assistance in the form of food. But it strikes me as very odd indeed that in a situation like this, which may become very critical this year or in the next few months, the minister would come before us and ask us to use our own tax money, for that is what it amounts to, to assist Indonesia in this way.

As the hon. member for Oxford has pointed out, how do we know whether the wheat flour will reach starving people in Indonesia or will be diverted for some other purpose? I cannot go as far as the members of the N.D.P. who have spoken about the inconsistency of not advancing an argument for a complete embargo on trade with Indonesia. Perhaps this would come about if the situation became more dangerous than it is at present. But what a strange situation this is. Here we have the Secretary of State for External Affairs admitting openly that Indonesia is engaged in warfare against Malaysia and asking us to support a military mission from Canada to Malaysia, which may end up in military aid being given to that commonwealth country, while at the same time he comes before the house and says "Let us vote \$350,000 for Indonesia." It does not make sense to me. What is the purpose of it? Let the minister tell us how this all came about. Under what circumstances did Indonesia ask for this, and what arguments were put forward? Are conditions in that country such that this type of aid is desperately needed?

Some representations must have been made by Indonesia. When were they made? What discussions were undertaken? Why did we settle on a contribution of wheat flour? For what purpose is it to be used? If the minister is abreast of the developments within his own department he should be able to answer some of these questions. It just does not make sense that on the one hand we should say there is a danger spot in southeast Asia, in a sister commonwealth country which is suffering from unprovoked attacks by Indonesia, and on the other hand say that Canada must give assistance to Indonesia.