

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: In other words, it is being given to the Government.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): I know of no complaint about the distribution of the aid or about the distribution of the food.

Hon. Mr. Grosart: Honourable senators, this appropriation is, I understand, supplementary to the Estimates of the External Aid Office of the Department of External Affairs. The formal conditions under which grants are made require the recipient country to pay the cost of transportation from Canada to that country. As I understand it, this is a gift, as the Leader of the Government has said. It is a Christmas gift from the people of Canada to the people of India. I wonder if, under those circumstances, the conditions of requiring the recipient of the gift to pay for its delivery will be enforced in this case.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): I do not know that I would like to describe it as a "Christmas gift," although I do say at this time of the year we are likely to be more disposed to think in a sympathetic way about such a proposal.

You may find it helpful if I tell you that what is proposed to Parliament is that, to India, wheat to the value of \$13.5 million is to be shipped within 10 days; milk powder to the value of \$3.5 million is to be shipped approximately a month from now, towards the end of January; atta flour, which is whole wheat flour, to the value of \$4 million will be shipped early in January. To Pakistan, wheat to the value of \$1.5 million will be shipped when shipping instructions have been received from Pakistan.

Answering directly the question that Senator Grosart raised, I do not think that we can agree in this house to the charge that is involved, if the shipping costs are to be absorbed. This is more than was called for in the resolution in the other place. It is not something we really have power to touch. However, in view of the kind of request made by the Prime Minister of India and the words she used, I think the arrangement used in previous years for handling and shipping will prevail again. That is about as far as we can go in the circumstances.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: Did the Prime Minister of Pakistan make a request as well?

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Yes. I am sorry that I do not have that letter with me, but there was a similar request from that

Government. It may have been made through the Pakistani High Commissioner in Ottawa.

Hon. Jean-François Pouliot: Honourable senators, the head of my church and the leaders of all churches have made representations for aid to be given to countries who suffer from famine and who have suffered from other disasters, and the speeches that have been made today and the questions that have been put have been inspired by very high motives. Although I do not object to the aid that is to be given, I would like to have some enlightenment as to the manner in which the food, or money, is to be distributed and to whom and by whom. Senator Roebuck asked the first question, Senator Grosart asked a second question along the same lines, and it is important for us to know where we are going in this matter.

In my view, aid should not be restricted to the Commonwealth countries, because there are other parts of the world in distress and in need of help. One or two nights ago there appeared on television a picture of the flooding at Florence, Italy, where many art treasures of the world had been preserved for centuries. These treasures have been damaged or destroyed by the floods that were caused by heavy rains and the melting snow from the mountains.

It is extremely unfortunate to think of the destruction of art treasures, but something much worse than that is the suffering of people because of hunger. People who had been comfortable, who had had means and who had been prosperous were, in one day, put out on the street—and on a street covered with water, mud and all sorts of debris. It seems to me that some help should be given, but the most urgent help is not that which is given to salvage art treasures; it is that which is given to human beings, to persons like ourselves, to persons who are completely destitute. What can be done for them, I wonder.

The United States has been very generous in all sorts of ways in order to help alleviate misery and privation all over the world. We, too, are doing our share, but it must be done in a manner which is logical and as fair as possible.

The people of the beautiful City of Florence, who were of comfortable means, and who were perhaps wealthy, but who have lost all they had and were left in a city where they could no longer get the comforts to which they had become accustomed, are no less worthy than the people who suffer on the