

Supply—External Affairs

time for both us and them. The era of colonialism is ended. Yet colonialism had its purpose. It brought law and order, it trained primitive peoples, it brought education and the chance of a higher way of life to the areas that it administered. The need for the benefits that colonialism brought still remains. Yet no longer can they be imposed by force. They must be given in good will. This is something that is very difficult indeed for many of the former imperial powers to do, even though they want to do it. On the other hand, it is something that we Canadians, citizens of a nation that was once a colony, certainly can and should be doing. Again, the contribution that we can make is not just in the form of money and materials. I believe that the contribution that we can make in the form, for instance, of technical assistance and education is very large indeed.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I apologize for interrupting the hon. gentleman but the time allotted to him has expired.

Some hon. Members: Go on.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you very much. I will hasten to bring my remarks to a close quickly. This is so, whether it is a matter of Canada sending educationists abroad or accepting increasing numbers of foreign students here. In this way we can render a very definite service. During the supper hour tonight I was speaking on the telephone to a man who knows the West Indies area of the Caribbean very well. He was talking about a Canadian who went to one of the islands in the Caribbean as a teacher training director, and said that he had reports from at least a dozen people about the wonderful job this man was doing, not just in his classes in training teachers but as a good will ambassador of what Canada represents and what Canada wants to be.

I am reminded of the newly created organization that had its birth in the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, only a few months ago. It was through the efforts of Emperor Haile Selassié, who was in our midst only a few weeks ago, that this organization came into being. I do not think we in Canada have any idea whatsoever of the important part this organization can play in the peaceful development of Africa. When the crisis developed between Algeria and Morocco a few weeks ago we saw this organization play its part in bringing peace to a troubled area, not through the influence of foreigners but through the influence of Africans themselves.

I look back on my own experience in Africa. I think one of the most fruitful aspects of the years I spent over there was not so much what I did there but the fact that I was able to direct to Canada a large number of students who are now trained and qualified and

are taking their place in their own countries. One of these men was the key man at the peacemakers' table a few weeks ago in the dispute between Morocco and Algeria.

In this connection, there are several matters I wish to raise. First of all, I hope it will be possible for the government to provide increased funds to enable Canadian students, young people, to travel overseas for service there. It does not take a great deal of money for this project. The cost of paying one's way on such a mission is, for students, frequently prohibitive; yet these people are here and willing to go. The good will that can be spread by such ambassadors at the local level is incalculable. I suggest the government consider allotting a portion of its increase in external aid funds for this purpose.

The second matter has to do with the bringing of foreign students to Canadian educational institutions. This does not involve thousands of students, because it is far more practical to educate African students in Africa if the educational facilities are available. In many countries in Africa and Latin America, as well as other developing areas of the world, there are not sufficient educational institutions, at least not in the field of higher learning. Canada has had a highly successful program in this field, with a very low failure rate. The program was initiated by the Department of Trade and Commerce some 13 years ago and now it is handled through external aid in the Department of External Affairs. Perhaps that is where it belongs. Some 600 students per year are now under instruction in Canadian educational institutions today, many of them through private aid, but the program is obviously capable of generating great good will and being of immense help to the countries concerned. Certainly, we can accommodate not just 600 but 6,000 if this were made financially possible.

At the present time, however, this program under the Department of External Affairs appears to be restricting the number of applicants because of a shortage of personnel at the administrative level in the department itself, and this in spite of the recommendation of the organization and classification branch of the civil service commission in September, 1959 and again in April, 1960. At the executive level, in the same service, we appear to have the odd sight of two directors of technical assistance sitting in the same chair with the same qualifications and duties; both, one presumes, drawing substantial salaries and both, one also presumes, getting in each other's way. I believe the minister could well look into this matter to see if this program, which is capable of such good

[Mr. Thompson.]